



OVERSEAS NEWS

Japanese set to get tough on refugees

By Robert Thomson in Tokyo

JAPAN, Asia's last open door to Indochinese refugees, is expected to announce a tough new selection process next week which will result in the deportation of Chinese refugees and the detention of Vietnamese classified as economic refugees.



A group of 149 boat people awaits permission this week to land from a 97-foot boat anchored off the western Japanese port of Kobe.

The Japanese government wants to discourage Vietnamese and Chinese from attempting to land in Japan, and hopes that the promise of detention will stem the flow.

become linked to Japan's labour shortage and a debate over whether foreign workers should be invited to fill the ever-widening gap.

without question, and believed, on the basis of trends in the mid-1980s, that the policy would not need to be reviewed until late in the 1990s.

know how to handle Chinese who claim they fled for political reasons in the wake of the crushing of the pro-democracy movement.

Georgian massacre general ousted

By Quentin Peel in Moscow

MOSCOW has ousted Col-Gen Igor Rodionov, military commander of the Trans-Caucasus, who is blamed over the massacre of 19 Georgian nationalist demonstrators in Tbilisi last April.

Spanish utility in Mexican thermal deal

By Tom Burns in Madrid

ENDESA, the Spanish state-controlled electrical utility which was partially privatised last year and listed on the New York Stock Exchange, has signed an agreement to invest \$1bn in the construction of two thermal plants in Mexico.

Lázaro Cárdenas plant in the state of Michoacan and a further \$450m on Carboeléctrica de Sabinas, Coahuila state.

Plans to build thermal plants in Argentina and to invest in electricity distribution form part of a big loan package agreed by Mr Felipe Gonzalez, Spain's Prime Minister, and the then President Raúl Alfonsín of Argentina two years ago.

Teléfonos de Mexico, which is 51 per cent state-owned. The government seeks private investment in satellite ground stations and projects that would upgrade and expand the 8m-line system.

Argentine price inflation rate drops sharply

By Gary Mead in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA'S runaway retail price inflation, almost 300 per cent in July, has dropped sharply to 37.9 per cent for August, according to the latest government figures.

Chilean opposition leader starts European tour

By Barbara Durr in Santiago

CHILE'S leading presidential candidate, Mr Patricio Aylwin, will begin a 15-day, five-country European tour tomorrow.

Greek workers granted 9.2% pay increase

By Kerin Hope in Athens

THE GREEK Economy Minister Mr Giorgos Koulas yesterday announced a 9.2 per cent increase in wages across the board of up to 9.2 per cent, to cover the last four months of 1989.

Berlin asylum seekers agree to desist

By Leslie Colitt in Berlin

ALL 116 East German asylum seekers who have spent a month in West Germany's diplomatic mission in East Berlin, seeking to get to the West, agreed to return home yesterday.

E Germans confuse Budapest

By Judy Dempsey in Vienna

CONFUSION about when the thousands of East German refugees in Hungary will be transported to the West continued yesterday, after unconfirmed reports that the Hungarian authorities will allow them to leave next week.

HK brain drain expected to rise by 30% next year

By John Elliott in Hong Kong

HONG KONG'S brain drain of people seeking the security of foreign passports and new ways of life abroad, before the colony reverts to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, is expected to rise by about 30 per cent from 42,000 this year to 55,000 next year.

The outflow of people will have a serious impact on Hong Kong's businesses, which have managed so far to cope with the loss of mostly younger professional and skilled workers.

But the total would depend on a number of factors, including China's policies towards Hong Kong and the immigration policies of host countries. The figure could be considerably larger if confidence slumps further.

Perestroika finally reaches the outpost of Sakhalin

Frontiersmen's outrage at abuses has thrown up a local Lech Walesa, Stefan Wagstyl reports

PEOPLE on Sakhalin Island, one of the most distant outposts of the Soviet Union, once thought that perestroika might never reach them. The island is so remote that the tsars used it as a place of exile.

headquarters for the regional council. Three *zakhas* reserved for party officials were turned over to public use — one as an art school, one for teachers, and one for a tourist hotel.

authorities — in the mid-1970s he was dismissed from his job as a TV journalist on KGB orders for supporting Dr Sakharov.

Asian republics. Estimated membership of the Sakhalin Popular Movement has fallen from a peak of 400 to 250. Aside from Mr Mikhailov, its leaders are almost unknown.

ambitions of opening the Soviet Far East with huge investment. The long-term plans for the area, which includes Sakhalin, call for a 150 per cent increase in income by the year 2000. The reality is that living standards have fallen in the past three years.

all visited the island. Six joint ventures have been signed since 1988.

Working conditions are tough. Workers have protested at the pollution caused by the island's pre-war pulp mill, which burns valuable salmon grounds.

The replacement of Gen. Rodionov is August, was also marked by revelations in the weekly newspaper Moscow News, concerning responsibility for the Tbilisi massacre.

Local party officials tried to rally around him, but he was removed on Moscow's orders and down with his family back to the capital.

led the way in opening discussion of taboo subjects.

military bases and KGB border-guard posts dotted around the island.

Many of the co-operatives are run by some of the island's 37,000 Koreans, who are regarded by Russians as having a special talent for business.

The wave of mining industry strikes which hit the Soviet Union this summer included the coal mines of Dolinka on Sakhalin. Several hundred miners stopped work in support of demands for a pay increase. They accepted an extra day's holiday a month instead.

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OVERSEAS NEWS

Long and winding Iraqi money trail leading from BNL

Alan Friedman reports from Milan on the logistical nightmare of tracking the funds in Italy's latest banking scandal

AT THE END of last December, the total amount of export credits that had been granted by the Atlanta branch of Italy's Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) and counter-guaranteed by the central bank of Iraq came to less than \$300m.

Between \$20m and \$30m each. In all the interbank lines were drawn from 40 to 50 US, European and Japanese banks.

Among the third party banks were dozens of leading banks around the world. These banks would be instructed by Baghdad to open credit lines in favour of exporting companies.



Giampaolo Cantoni, appointed yesterday as BNL chairman

Baghdad in drive for armaments factories

By Victor Mallet in Baghdad

DURING the eight-year Gulf war against Iran, and following last year's ceasefire, Iraq has intensified its efforts to establish its own armaments factories with the help of foreign companies.

At the forefront of these efforts has been the Ministry of Industry and Military Production. It was established in its present form - combining civilian and military facilities - in July last year under the control of Mr Hussein Kamel, one of the sons-in-law of President Saddam Hussein.

Mr Kamel previously headed the powerful Military Industries Commission (MIC), which has been incorporated into the new umbrella ministry. He was not available for interview this week.

The MIC is said to assemble Soviet tanks and make artillery and ammunition, as well as products with civilian applications such as trucks and buses. It is also thought to be responsible for increasing the range of Soviet Scud-B missiles, which were displayed as local products with ranges of up to 950km at an arms fair in Iraq last year.

Matrix-Churchill 'bought out through network of companies'

By Richard Donkin

MATRIX-CHURCHILL, the Coventry-based machine tool company named in the BNL scandal was bought out two years ago with funds channelled through a network of companies established by senior officials in Iraqi state-owned industries.

The UK Government has a policy forbidding export of lethal weapons or equipment that could significantly enhance the military capacity of either Iraq or Iran.

Mr Heoderson said yesterday that he was surprised to hear that records filed in Companies House named him as a one-time director of a company called TEG which is related to TDG through a company called Admicheck.

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Grim aftermath of SA polling

Patti Waldmeir on the bitterness after the Cape Town violence

IN THE coloured township of Mitchell's Plain yesterday roads were strewn with twisted and blackened remains of barricades burnt to mark Wednesday's election in South Africa's three segregated Houses of Parliament.

Earlier in the day, Mrs Hester Oosterwyck, a community worker at the Mitchell's Plain crisis centre, narrated the events of September 6 to visiting journalists. She said township residents had erected barricades to mark their disapproval of the election to some of the worst violence in the western cape has seen for several years.

Israelis may prosecute over aid to drug dealers

By Hugh Carnegie in Jerusalem

A POLICE investigation into allegations of involvement by Israelis in training Colombian drug cartel death squads has recommended the prosecution of six employees of a private security company for allegedly exporting military know-how without authorisation, Israel Radio reported yesterday.

Jordan hopes to reschedule debts with banks today

By Lamis Andoni in Amman

JORDAN hopes to sign an agreement with a team representing the London Club of foreign creditor banks today, to reschedule debts for the years 1989 and 1990.

Pakistan concerned at refugee aid cuts

By Christina Lamb in Islamabad

THE Pakistan Government is becoming increasingly concerned over drastic cuts in Western aid to Afghan refugees. Officials complain of an almost \$15m (\$9.3m) cash shortfall from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and say they urgently need a further \$200m assistance for commodities and transport.

France to retreat on politicians' amnesty

By Ian Davidson in Paris

IN its most significant political retreat since coming to power 15 months ago, France's socialist government seems set to drop plans for an amnesty of politicians who have used allegedly corrupt methods to procure party political funds.

Amnesty protests to Saudis at detention of Kuwaiti pilgrims

By Andrew Gowers in Kuwait

AMNESTY International has protested to Saudi Arabia about the detention and alleged torture of 33 Kuwaiti Shia Muslims who have been held in the kingdom for nearly two months since they were arrested during the annual Hajj (pilgrimage) to Mecca.



UK NEWS

Fowler drops 70% rule on turnouts for strike ballots

By Ivor Owen, Parliamentary Correspondent

THE Government yesterday bowed to pressure from the TUC and the employers' organisations. It confirmed that it had dropped the requirement for a 70 per cent turnout from its code of practice on the conduct of strike ballots.



Norman Fowler: further laws not ruled out

Mr Norman Fowler, the Employment Secretary, sought to make light of the change - one of a number of modifications to the code to take account of representations made during the consultation period that began last November.

TV-am chief warns on planned broadcasting licence changes

By Raymond Snoddy

MR BRUCE GYNGELL of TV-am, one of the most free market orientated managing directors in British commercial television, warned the Government yesterday there would be "serious problems" if broadcasting licences were awarded to the highest bidder as planned.

Three years ago had allowed greater freedom for those with the most money to buy what they wanted and big new players moved in.

Bond was investigated by the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal but Mr Gyngell said that the book value of the network was now one sixth of what it was two years ago.

Timber trade call to save rain forests

By John Hunt, Environment Correspondent

THE TIMBER Trade Federation representing 560 timber importers, has written to Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade and Industry Secretary, protesting at government delay in agreeing to measures to protect the tropical rain forests from destruction.

Gould criticises SIB plan for three-tier regulation

By John Mason

PROPOSALS BY the Securities and Investment Board to create a new three-tier framework for City regulation are unlikely to achieve greater simplicity, Mr Bryan Gould, Labour's Trade and Industry spokesman, warned yesterday.

scope than the rules in the bottom two tiers, so it would be possible for investors to have no remedy if the rules were met but the principles broken.

Government's attitude to public safety criticised

Reporters: Charles Leadbeater, John Gapper, Jimmy Burns, Michael Smith, Fiona Thompson

THE GOVERNMENT'S attitude to public safety was heavily criticised yesterday by delegates on the final day of the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool.

"The enterprise culture has engendered a climate of opinion that encourages risk taking - the quick buck rather than the safe ride," said Mr Ken Cameron, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union.

establishing an independent disaster agency to be responsible for monitoring and enforcing safety standards.

A health and safety motion rejecting the Government's plan to transfer the power of pit deputies - responsible for safety in pits - was carried unanimously.

Still looking for a role in Britain after Thatcher

Charles Leadbeater reviews this year's Congress

THE proprietor of Halstead's newswagents, at Skippool Creek just outside Blackpool was not pleased. Live television coverage of the TUC Congress ended on Wednesday, so he missed the debate on defence and disarmament.



Looking for a role: Fred Jarvis of the NUT

"He likes watching people getting worked up. They do a lot of shouting at the TUC," said his wife.

years. However, much of this confidence comes from this summer's strikes - a very traditional index of union strength.

The more important issue is whether the unions can rebuild their membership by recruiting in growth areas, industries and occupations. Their ability to do this remains largely untested.

Maddocks is fifth woman elected to chair

MS ADA Maddocks, National Health Officer for Nalogo, the public service union, yesterday became only the fifth woman ever to chair the TUC general council.



Ms ADA Maddocks alongside Fred Jarvis, Tony Christopher and Norman Willis at this year's close

Her election, after 46 years as a union member and 12 years on the council, comes when the TUC is attempting to improve its image among women and increase their influence on its decision-making processes.

Involved attending meetings and drafting minutes and agendas for the union's electricity section. "It was a small group and gradually I became more involved," she said yesterday.

Motion attacks restriction on civil liberties

The restriction of civil liberties in Britain was attacked by delegates.

A motion was passed saying that Britain was on the road to becoming an authoritarian society because of its breaches of international employment conventions.

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Construction output up 15.9%

By Andrew Taylor, Construction Correspondent

THE VALUE of UK construction output rose by 15.9 per cent to a record £22.47bn during the first half of this year. This was in spite of a 3 per cent decline in the value of private housebuilding output compared with the first six months of 1988.

According to the department, total output figures for April, May and June, however, were unchanged on the first three months of this year although 6 per cent higher than in comparable months last year.

the end of June last year. The environment department said commercial construction output in the second quarter of this year was 30 per cent higher than during the corresponding three months last year and 2 per cent higher than during the first three months of 1988.

In volume terms UK construction output rose by more than 5 per cent during the first half of this year while private housebuilding fell by more than 17 per cent.

The figures expressed in constant 1985 prices and seasonally adjusted showed private housebuilding in the second quarter of this year fell by a fifth compared with the corresponding period last year and was 5 per cent lower than during the first quarter of 1989.

Private industrial construction was 12 per cent higher than during the corresponding quarter last year but fell by 3 per cent compared with the first three months of this year.

These show profits from private commercial and industrial development during the first six months of this year have in most cases more than compensated for the drop in earnings from housebuilding.

Mr Peter Costain, chief executive, said, however, that the value of building and civil engineering was up by more than half compared with

As yet there has been no sign of the expected peaking of commercial and industrial orders. Analysts expect the balance of construction order books to switch more to civil engineering work over the next few years as the upsurge in UK property values peaks and spending increases on water, roads and other transport infrastructure.

Cohse joins talks for super union

By John Gapper, Labour Correspondent

THE HEALTH union Cohse has started talks with the public service unions Nupe and Nalogo on a merger that would create the biggest British union. The talks are expected to take several years.

Amma hires team of managers

By David Thomas, Education Correspondent

A TEAM of former senior managers has been hired as mobile casework officers to advise members on employment problems by the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, the largest non-TUC teaching union.

Leaders reject 8.2%

Union leaders of 60,000 craft workers in local authorities have rejected an 8.2 per cent pay offer. They will meet negotiators for Britain's 500 local councils next month.

Prison talks urged

The Government was urged to begin talks with other EC countries to raise standards in British prisons.

TV franchises

Congress criticised the proposed auctioning of franchises for regional television under the new broadcasting framework.

Museums 'crisis'

A "financial crisis" facing national museums and galleries was noted in a motion on the arts.

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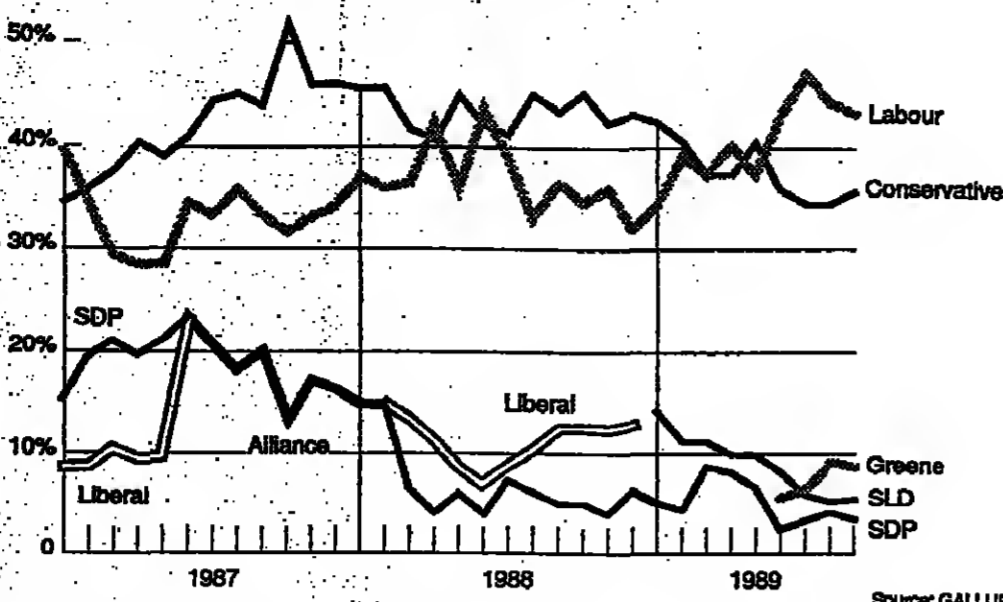
SEPTEMBER 1989... a time to give thanks for those who gave everything... The Royal Air Forces Association... Since the outbreak of war in 1939, the Royal Air Forces Association has brought constant, unstinting comradeship and urgent practical aid to the survivors...



Philip Stephens sets the scene for the Democrats' conference, which starts today

The promised realignment of British politics in the 1980s has proved a mirage. The prospect that Mrs Thatcher's electoral judgement and civil war in the Labour party would allow a new centre party to "break the mould" has evaporated.

The centre parties on the wane



When the mould remains intact

The above analysis - the conventional wisdom at Westminster - is one which the bruised Social and Liberal Democrat party, forged by the Liberals and the rump of the SDP after the Alliance's 1987 election defeat, will spend the next week trying to disprove.

identity for a new party. Its identity crisis has been symbolised by the damaging internal argument over whether the party's short title should be Democrat or Liberal Democrat. That should be finally resolved next month when a ballot of the party's 82,000 members is expected to come down in favour of the latter, restoring the link in voters' minds with the Liberal party.

ment lurching further into right-wing extremism and a Labour opposition in the thrall of the Militant Tendency. It bids its support among electors who wanted neither.

ground on which the Democrats will fight the next election. Its aim is to contrast the "centralist" and "corporatist" instincts of the Conservatives and Labour with a set of policies aimed at defining a new concept of "citizenship".

The problem for Mr Ashdown and his supporters is that the two major parties are already dining à la carte from the same menu. Labour's about-turn on privatisation, Mrs Thatcher's green conversion and the Conservatives' own promotion of "active citizenship" are a few examples.

An old order changes as the pace quickens

Terry Dodsworth reports on the restructuring of the European electronics industry

The imminent demise of an independent Plessey, now in the last throes of its bitter 10-month defence against take-over by the General Electric Company and Siemens, means a sweeping change in the structure of the UK electronics industry. But it also heralds a crucial new phase in the development of a handful of European high-technology sectors, from telecommunications and defence, to semiconductors, computers and consumer electronics.

of France, are nationalised; many of the others, including Philips of the Netherlands, and Nixdorf of West Germany, have shareholding structures that are virtually impenetrable to an unwanted outsider. But these impediments will at the worst only delay moves towards European integration.

The restructuring that has occurred so far has already made the European industry more confident than seemed possible in the early 1980s. Some of this rebound undoubtedly derives from the help that has been given to indigenous producers by anti-dumping actions in several of the more competitive areas of the industry.

Semiconductor production has already gone through a shakeout

its expansion in the UK. Indeed, GEC's alliance with Siemens, West Germany's premier electrical and electronics group, is the first substantial example of the sort of agreements which are expected to accelerate over the next few years as companies seek access to each other's markets.

The restructuring has made the European industry more confident

on a regional scale. Thomson has expanded in the US television industry through the takeover of RCA, Philips moved in to West Germany at Grundig, and Nokia taken over IIT's television interests in Europe.

EC 'own initiative'

From Mr David Thorn. Sir, Tim Dickinson's interesting article, "Political impetus builds behind hopes for free market in insurance" (September 5), refers to the Commission's first step towards freeing life insurance services in the European Community - the "own initiative" proposal.

Pressures on the countryside

From Miss Marigold Coleman. Sir, Happily, the need to protect the British countryside is not such a "curiously neglected area" (Leader, September 5). Among other initiatives, the two-year Future Countryside programme, run by the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA), attempts to propose some answers to the problems of strategic decision-making by asking three questions:

series of six specialist working seminars examining key areas of the countryside debate will feed their conclusions through to a big conference next May. (Our newsletter is available for any readers interested in following the discussion.)

ously quiet, pleasant and unspoiled places like Lumley Mill at Emsworth are now wrecked beyond redemption. The Ministry is silent - no matter how many times one asks - about the justification for the road; in response to such questions the authorities drone about places such as double glazing or noise barriers. How do you double-glaze your garden?

'Most people will benefit'

From Miss Mary Georghiou. Sir, Joe Rogaly's article, "Trust us, we are the Labour party" (September 1) should be read by every Labour party delegate and decision maker before the annual conference in Brighton next month.

LETTERS

Table with columns: Product, Applied rate, Net rate, Interest rate, Minimum balance, Access and other details. It lists various financial products and their terms.

Points scored

From Mr C.G. Torrance. Sir, The recent Universities Funding Council (UFC) research selectivity exercise gave research rankings for all UK universities. Unfortunately the UFC did not bow to the inevitable, and issue a definitive league table. None of the rankings published in the press were the same - though LSE was in every "top six".

Doubts cast on PEPs

From Mr John Sykes. Sir, Mr Robert Howes, writing about PEPs (personal equity plans), points out the financial dangers of intermediaries whose charges can soak up more than the dividends arising from the shares (Letters, August 19).

Takeover techniques may put off small investors

From Mr Reginald Webster. Sir, Present takeover technique - where a share exchange is ruled out and the investor is forced to take cash or cash plus loan notes - is causing irritation among smaller shareholders ("Fair shares", Letters, September 2). Taken over a few years, the effect of this type of takeover will mean a fall in the number

happen in a year. This sum was placed in Glynwed (optimistic future), with 127 at 250p; and Ensign (aggressively managed) with 481 at 75p.

management trusts, where they can escape the takeover hassle.

Those keen on wider share ownership should be giving the matter serious thought. My response is to ignore direct investment in companies in future and favour unit trusts and investment trusts. Reginald W. Webster, 1 Longstanton Road, Over, Cambridge



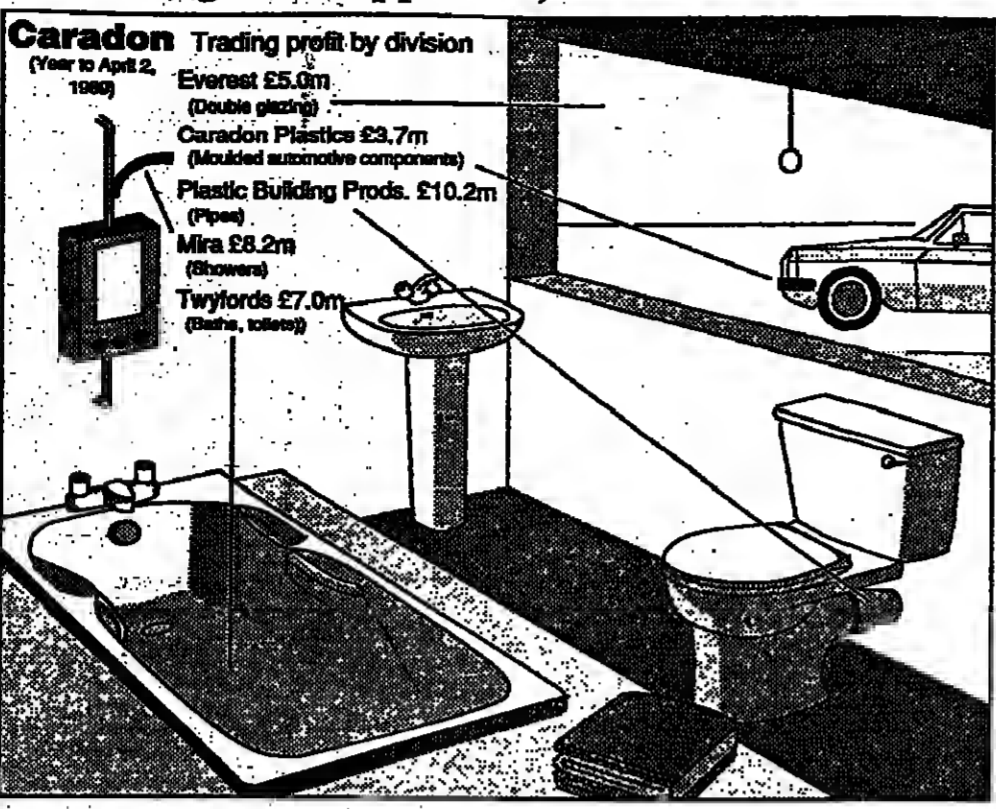


UK COMPANY NEWS

Acme Products' success story

Why is Caradon considering a bid approach, asks Vanessa Houlder

THE NEWS that Caradon, the fast-growing building materials company, is mulling over a takeover approach may even have taken the most bid-weary analyst by surprise.



Caradon, of all companies, might be expected to slum the prospect of being swallowed up by a major group. Since it staged a management buy-out from Reed International in 1985, its renewed vigour has been a striking advertisement for the merits of independence.

Furthermore, it does not conform to the convention that bid targets are poorly managed concerns, with dismal share price histories. Caradon has something of a fan club among City institutions thanks to its successful profits record, solid share price performance and well-respected management.

der is that it must be prepared to take a long-term view. The outlook for building materials is clouded by the squeeze on consumer spending and general pressures on the new housing market.

trated by a fall in market share from 11 per cent to 6 per cent in the five years before the acquisition. So although Caradon has already achieved success in lopping costs, improving products and boosting marketing efforts, the jury is still out on the wisdom of the acquisition.

the management to head a larger division. But it is not clear that the management would want to accept such an offer. A decision to plunge into the life of a big company might sit oddly with the executives' evident relish of their tightly-knit management team and the large degree of control they have over their own fortunes.

FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

Table with columns for EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS, Friday September 8 1989, and Highs and Lows Index. It lists various sectors like CAPITAL GOODS, CONSUMER GROUPS, etc., with their respective indices and price movements.

FIXED INTEREST

Table showing FIXED INTEREST rates and YIELDS for various terms (1 Year, 5 Years, 10 Years, etc.) and types (Government, Corporate, etc.).

BANK RETURN

Table showing BANK RETURN for LIABILITIES and ASSETS. Includes categories like Capital, Public Deposits, Government Securities, etc., with values for September 8, 1989.

ECONOMIC DIARY

TODAY: A United Nations mission is expected in Honduras to decide whether to establish an international peacekeeping force to monitor Contra movements. TOMORROW: SLD annual conference in Brighton (until September 19). Mr John Wainwright, Foreign Secretary, visits London for talks with Mr George Bush, US President, and Mr Dan Quayle, US Vice President.

EUROPEAN OPTIONS EXCHANGE

Table showing EUROPEAN OPTIONS EXCHANGE rates for various currencies and contracts. Columns include Series, Vol, Last, and Bid/Ask prices.

BASE LENDING RATES

Table showing BASE LENDING RATES for various banks and currencies. Lists bank names and their respective lending rates.

Notice to Shareholders of Norton Opax plc

Recently, Norton Opax plc made an offer for The De La Rue Company p.l.c. and the Board is seeking the approval of its shareholders to proceed with the offer. Shareholders are now being asked to support their Board's recommendation by voting in favour of the acquisition.

NORTON OPAX logo and advertisement text. Includes the statement: 'Post your proxy vote in favour of the acquisition by Monday 11th September at the latest.'

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CURRENCIES, MONEY AND CAPITAL MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Dollar ends on weaker note

THE DOLLAR finally ran out of steam ahead of the weekend, failing to make any further attempt at reaching the DM2.00 level against the D-Mark.

lives, and in the absence of any new economic data, the US unit finished in London at DM1.9800 from DM1.9650 and Y146.50 compared with Y146.90.

Y227.00. Elsewhere, it finished at SF72.6450 from SF72.6475 and FF110.3275 against FF110.3350.

STERLING INDEX

Table with columns for currency, index value, and change. Includes Sterling, US Dollar, Japanese Yen, etc.

CURRENCY RATES

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies like Sterling, US Dollar, Japanese Yen, etc.

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

Table showing percentage changes in currency values for Sterling, US Dollar, etc.

OTHER CURRENCIES

Table listing exchange rates for currencies like Australian Dollar, Canadian Dollar, etc.

FORWARD RATES AGAINST STERLING

Table showing forward exchange rates for various currencies against the Sterling.

FT LONDON INTERBANK FIXING

Table showing interbank fixing rates for various currencies like US Dollars, Swiss Francs, etc.

MONEY RATES

Table showing money market rates for various currencies like US Dollars, Swiss Francs, etc.

LONDON MONEY RATES

Table showing London money market rates for various currencies like US Dollars, Swiss Francs, etc.

MONEY MARKETS Slightly easier

UK INTEREST rates were slightly lower where changed yesterday, in trading lacking any fresh incentive.

AS THE STOCK MARKET MOVED

AS THE STOCK MARKET MOVED ahead of the FT-SE 100 Index, closed 8 higher at 2423.9.

STOCK MARKET

STOCK MARKET: The day's main story was the extraordinary activity in BP, where 11,469 contracts changed hands.

LONDON (LIFFE)

Table showing Liffe futures prices for various commodities like Oil, Wheat, etc.

CHICAGO

Table showing Chicago futures prices for various commodities like Corn, Soybeans, etc.

PHILADELPHIA SEALS

Table showing Philadelphia seals prices for various metals.

JAPANESE YEN (JIB)

Table showing Japanese Yen futures prices for various currencies.

U.S. TREASURY BILLS

Table showing US Treasury bill prices for various maturities.

U.S. TREASURY BONDS

Table showing US Treasury bond prices for various maturities.

U.S. TREASURY NOTES

Table showing US Treasury note prices for various maturities.

U.S. TREASURY DEBENTURES

Table showing US Treasury debenture prices for various maturities.

U.S. TREASURY SHORT-TERM

Table showing US Treasury short-term instrument prices.

U.S. TREASURY LONG-TERM

Table showing US Treasury long-term instrument prices.

U.S. TREASURY INTEREST RATES

Table showing US Treasury interest rates for various maturities.

U.S. TREASURY SPREADS

Table showing US Treasury spreads for various maturities.

U.S. TREASURY YIELDS

Table showing US Treasury yields for various maturities.

U.S. TREASURY PRICES

Table showing US Treasury prices for various maturities.

U.S. TREASURY RATES

Table showing US Treasury rates for various maturities.

U.S. TREASURY SPREADS

Table showing US Treasury spreads for various maturities.

U.S. TREASURY YIELDS

Table showing US Treasury yields for various maturities.

LONDON MARKETS

LONDON RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues in London markets, including company names and prices.

RIGHTS OFFERS

Table showing rights offers for various companies.

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Table showing fixed interest stocks and their prices.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

Table showing announced dividends for various companies.

COMPANIES IN BRIEF

ADT said it speaks for 4.37m ordinary shares in Carrara (55.25 per cent) and its offer is conditional as to acceptance.

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FT GUIDE TO WORLD CURRENCIES Every Tuesday In the FT



LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE Dealings

Details of business done shown below have been taken with consent from last Thursday's Stock Exchange Official List and should not be reproduced without permission.

Details relate to those securities not included in the FT Share Information Services. Where otherwise indicated prices are in pence. The prices are those at which the business was done in the 24 hours up to 5 pm on Thursday and settled through the Stock Exchange Talianian system, they are not in order of execution but in ascending order which denotes the day's highest and lowest dealings.

For those securities in which no business was recorded in Thursday's Official List the latest recorded business in the four previous days is given with the relevant date.

Rule 335(2) and Third Market stocks are not regulated by the International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Ltd.

\* Bargains at special prices. † Bargains at the previous day.

Corporation and County Stocks

London County 1923/40... Birmingham District Council 111/4... Liverpool Corp 200/20... Sunningdale Borough 111/4...

UK Public Bonds

Agricultural Mortgage Corp... Metropolitan Water... London Authority 6 1/4...

Foreign Stocks, Bonds, etc.-coupons payable in London

Hungary Republic of... Spain Govt 4 1/4... Mexico National Budget...

Banks and Discount Companies

Bank of America... Citibank... HSBC... London & Lancashire...

Breweries and Distilleries

Adelphi... Beefeater... Carlsberg... Heineken...

Registered Housing Associations

North Housing Association... Camden Council... Westminster...

Commercial, Industrial, etc

Adco... Anglo... Balfour Beatty... British Telecom...

Registered Housing Associations

North Housing Association... Camden Council... Westminster...

Commercial, Industrial, etc

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Commercial, Industrial, etc

Adco... Anglo... Balfour Beatty... British Telecom...

Registered Housing Associations

North Housing Association... Camden Council... Westminster...

Slackton Hutton Lodge 105 1/2... British Chemicals International... British American Finance...

British Aluminium... British American Finance... British American Finance...

British American Finance... British American Finance... British American Finance...

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TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. The Financial Times proposes to publish this survey on: Tuesday 10th October 1989. For a full editorial synopsis and advertisement details, please contact: Michael Rowlands on 01-873 3349 or write to him at: Number One Southwark Bridge London SE1 9HL. FINANCIAL TIMES. LEGAL APPOINTMENTS ARE EVERY MONDAY. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT 01 873 3000. ELIZABETH ROWAN X3456 CANDIDA RAYMOND X3694

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LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

Steady close to the week in equities

LONDON stocks rounded off a confusing week with a successful trading session, although share prices ended well off the top as end of week profit-taking was encouraged by a dull opening on Wall Street.

Accountant Closing Dates table with columns for Firm Name, Date, and Status.

nearly 20 points in early trading, with oil shares moving ahead strongly following bullish comments from the chairman-in-waiting of British Petroleum.

This week saw equities face serious tests in the shape of the first corporate results since domestic interest rates moved to present levels.

effect on the UK. By mid-1991, Nomura sees the FTSE at 3,200. S.G. Warburg Securities believes equities will establish a trading range of 2,350-2,450 for the next few months.

Final call at Plessey

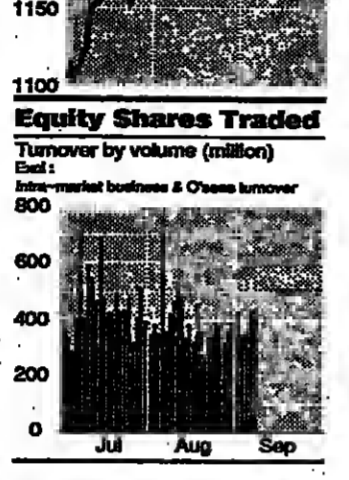
The existence of Plessey as a stock market entity effectively came to an end yesterday when GEC shareholders approved the GEC/Siemens moves and the consortium's stockbrokers moved into the market to buy Plessey stock.

FT-A All-Share Index



more diverse North Sea assets. The short-term upside potential in BP is considerable with 38p regarded as easily achievable.

Equity Shares Traded



which makes DDI applied for permission to distribute the drug on a no profit basis - so-called treatment IND - on August 15.

leverages buyout specialist

would join the bidding for United Airlines, currently under offer from a consortium involving BA. The shares eased a penny to 21p.

Further consideration of REM's sale

of its stake in Goodman Fielder Wattie of Australia helped the shares advance to 46p.

US buying of BP

Thursday's news of the appointment of Mr Robert Horton as the new chairman of BP, with Mr David Simon appointed as deputy chairman of the UK oil group was said to have been one of the main reasons behind a wave of American-sourced buying of BP shares.

Trafalgar rise

Trafalgar House moved smartly ahead in good volume at the opening in the wake of a bullish note from James Capel. The agency broker upgraded its profits forecast following a positive meeting with Trafalgar's finance director on Thursday.

ENTERPRISE

Enterprise rose 5 to 609p, helped by the good interim dividend announced on Thursday and the recent out of court settlement with British Gas and Amerada Hess regarding the Texas Eastern North Sea assets.

ABB Kent continued to improve

on hopes that its water meter business would benefit from the privatisation of the water industry. The shares closed 3 to the good at 143p.

Friendly Hotels continued to benefit

from Thursday's good interim figures, rising 8 to 306p. Northern Foods fell after brokerages houses had held seminars on the stock.

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1989

Table listing new highs and lows for various sectors like Airlines, Chemicals, Food, etc.

RISES AND FALLS

Table showing percentage changes in rises and falls for various categories like British Funds, Corporate Bonds, etc.

COMMODITIES

ZINC LED a general decline in prices on the London Metals Exchange this week as the market continued to react to the ending last week of the Peruvian miners' strike.

WEEK IN THE MARKETS

Zinc leads general fall in metals

ZINC LED a general decline in prices on the London Metals Exchange this week as the market continued to react to the ending last week of the Peruvian miners' strike.

LEADERS AND LAGGARDS

Table showing percentage changes since December 30 1988 based on Thursday 7 September for various sectors.

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

Table showing stock indices for Government Secs, Fixed Interest, Ordinary Shares, Gold Mines, FT-SE 100 Share, etc.

TRADING VOLUME IN MAJOR STOCKS

Table showing trading volume for major stocks like ASIA Group, Anglo-Norfolk, etc.

after a buy recommendation from one of the leading agency brokers. Baggeridge Brick attracted an unusually high level of interest which boosted the shares 15 to 181p.

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BENCHMARK GOVERNMENT BONDS

Table showing benchmark government bonds with columns for Coupon, Red Date, Price, Change, Yield, etc.

APPOINTMENTS

Advertisement for C.E. Heath Group featuring portraits of key personnel and their roles, such as C.E. Heath (Insurance) Broking, Mr Bobby Nicolle, Mr Richard Green, etc.

FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Current Unit Trust Prices are available on FT Cityline. To obtain your free Unit Trust Code Booklet ring the FT Cityline help desk on 01-225-2128

AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

Main table containing unit trust information, organized into columns by fund name, price, and other details. Includes sub-sections for 'UNIT TRUSTS', 'GUIDE TO UNIT TRUST PRICING', and 'RETAIL CHANGES'.

GUIDE TO UNIT TRUST PRICING. Text explaining retail changes, including the introduction of a 1.5% commission for new investors and a 1.0% commission for existing investors.

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FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Current Unit Trust Prices are available on FT Cityline. To obtain your free Unit Trust Code Booklet ring the FT Cityline help desk on 01-825-2126

Unit Trust

Main table containing unit trust information with columns for Name, Price, Yield, and other financial metrics. Includes sub-sections like 'OTHER UK UNIT TRUSTS' and 'INSURANCES'.

OTHER UK UNIT TRUSTS

INSURANCES

Continued on next page



FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Current Unit Trust Prices are available on FT Cityline. To obtain your free Unit Trust Code Booklet ring the FT Cityline help desk on 01-925-2128

Main table containing unit trust information with columns for Name, Price, Offer, Yield, and other financial metrics. Includes sub-sections for 'MANAGEMENT SERVICES' and 'OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS'.

OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS

GUERNSEY (SIB RECOGNISED)

MANAGEMENT SERVICES

LUXEMBOURG (SIB RECOGNISED)

JERSEY (\*)

SWITZERLAND (SIB RECOGNISED)

GUERNSEY (\*\*)

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FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Table of FT Unit Trust Information Service, listing various unit trusts such as EFG Trust Company (Japan) Ltd, Wabash Investment Management (Japan) Ltd, and others, with columns for Name, Price, and Yield.

LONDON SHARE SERVICE

Table of London Share Service, listing various funds and shares under categories like BRITISH FUNDS, BRITISH FUNDS - Contd, LOANS, FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS, AMERICANS, MONEY MARKET, and TRUST FUNDS.

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NOTES - Gross rate to show extent from composite rate of the net actual rate after deduction of GST & Stamp Duty. Gross equivalent to net rate (assuming 10% tax on interest).

Latest Share Prices are available on FT Cityline. To obtain your free Share Code Booklet ring the FT Cityline help desk on 01-928-2128

LONDON SHARE SERVICE

AMERICANS - Contd

Table listing American stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

BUILDING, TIMBER, ROADS - Contd

Table listing building, timber, and roads stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

DRAPERY AND STORES - Contd

Table listing drapery and stores stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

ENGINEERING - Contd

Table listing engineering stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

INDUSTRIALS (Misc.) - Contd

Table listing industrial stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

INDUSTRIALS (Misc.) - Contd

Table listing industrial stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

CANADIANS

Table listing Canadian stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

ELECTRICIANS

Table listing electrician stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC

Table listing food, groceries, and other stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Table listing hotels and caterers stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

INSURANCES

Table listing insurance stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

INSURANCES

Table listing insurance stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

BANKS, HP & LEASING

Table listing bank, HP, and leasing stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table listing chemical and plastic stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

DRAPERY AND STORES

Table listing drapery and stores stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

INDUSTRIALS (Misc.)

Table listing industrial stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

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Table listing industrial stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

BEERS, WINES & SPIRITS

Table listing beer, wine, and spirit stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

BUILDING, TIMBER, ROADS

Table listing building, timber, and roads stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

ENGINEERING

Table listing engineering stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Bid, Offer, and P/E ratio.

INDUSTRIALS (Misc.)

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LONDON SHARE SERVICE

Latest Share Prices are available on FT Cityline. To obtain your free Share Code Booklet ring the FT Cityline ring desk on 01-625-2128

LEISURE

Table of share prices for Leisure sector including companies like Leisure Group, Leisure World, etc.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING - Contd

Table of share prices for Paper, Printing, Advertising sector including companies like Newsprint, Printers, etc.

TEXTILES - Contd

Table of share prices for Textiles sector including companies like Textile Manufacturers, etc.

TRUSTS, FINANCE, LAND - Contd

Table of share prices for Trusts, Finance, Land sector including companies like Trusts, Finance, etc.

OIL AND GAS - Contd

Table of share prices for Oil and Gas sector including companies like Oil & Gas, etc.

MINES - Contd

Table of share prices for Mines sector including companies like Mines, etc.

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT TRADES

Table of share prices for Motors, Aircraft Trades sector including companies like Motors, Aircraft, etc.

PROPERTY

Table of share prices for Property sector including companies like Property, etc.

TRANSPORT

Table of share prices for Transport sector including companies like Transport, etc.

TOBACCO

Table of share prices for Tobacco sector including companies like Tobacco, etc.

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table of share prices for Overseas Traders sector including companies like Overseas Traders, etc.

THIRD MARKET

Table of share prices for Third Market sector including companies like Third Market, etc.

Commercial Vehicles

Table of share prices for Commercial Vehicles sector including companies like Commercial Vehicles, etc.

Components

Table of share prices for Components sector including companies like Components, etc.

Trucks

Table of share prices for Trucks sector including companies like Trucks, etc.

Plantations

Table of share prices for Plantations sector including companies like Plantations, etc.

Rubbers, Palm Oil

Table of share prices for Rubbers, Palm Oil sector including companies like Rubbers, Palm Oil, etc.

Teas

Table of share prices for Teas sector including companies like Teas, etc.

Garages and Distributors

Table of share prices for Garages and Distributors sector including companies like Garages and Distributors, etc.

Investment Trusts

Table of share prices for Investment Trusts sector including companies like Investment Trusts, etc.

Finance, Land, etc

Table of share prices for Finance, Land, etc sector including companies like Finance, Land, etc, etc.

Central Rand

Table of share prices for Central Rand sector including companies like Central Rand, etc.

Far West Rand

Table of share prices for Far West Rand sector including companies like Far West Rand, etc.

Diamond and Platinum

Table of share prices for Diamond and Platinum sector including companies like Diamond and Platinum, etc.

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

Table of share prices for Newspapers, Publishers sector including companies like Newspapers, Publishers, etc.

Shoes and Leather

Table of share prices for Shoes and Leather sector including companies like Shoes and Leather, etc.

South Africans

Table of share prices for South Africans sector including companies like South Africans, etc.

Central African

Table of share prices for Central African sector including companies like Central African, etc.

Finance

Table of share prices for Finance sector including companies like Finance, etc.

Australians

Table of share prices for Australians sector including companies like Australians, etc.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING

Table of share prices for Paper, Printing, Advertising sector including companies like Paper, Printing, Advertising, etc.

SHOES AND LEATHER

Table of share prices for Shoes and Leather sector including companies like Shoes and Leather, etc.

SOUTH AFRICANS

Table of share prices for South Africans sector including companies like South Africans, etc.

TEXTILES

Table of share prices for Textiles sector including companies like Textiles, etc.

REGIONAL & IRISH STOCKS

Table of share prices for Regional & Irish Stocks sector including companies like Regional & Irish Stocks, etc.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table of share prices for Traditional Options sector including companies like Traditional Options, etc.

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Lord Weinstock arriving at a London meeting yesterday

Plessey concedes defeat to GEC-Siemens

By Terry Dodsworth and Hugo Dixon

SIR John Clark finally conceded defeat yesterday in the battle to maintain the independence of Plessey, the family-run electronics company which has headed for the past 20 years.

He advised shareholders to accept the 52bn offer masterminded by his long-time rival Lord Weinstock, managing director of the General Electric Company. This followed an announcement by GEC and Siemens, its West German partner, that they controlled 62 per cent of Plessey and that the 270p-a-share bid had gone unconditional.

Lord Weinstock, yesterday, promised "other ventures" in the wake of the Plessey takeover. He said that the victory, which follows a dogged four-year campaign, would enable GEC to tackle European markets more effectively.

The takeover reinforces Siemens' position as the world's third largest telecommunications manufacturer, and gives it an important foothold in the UK defence electronics market. It is expected to lead to a wave of similar cross-border alliances throughout Europe.

Siemens is paying about £1.25bn for its share of Plessey which has a turnover of £1.7bn and a workforce of 26,000. GEC will pay the remaining £750m.

Lord Weinstock originally bid for Plessey in 1985, only to be blocked by the Monopolies

and Mergers Commission. He relinched his attack in November and in the subsequent 10 months the City has witnessed a bewildering array of offensive and defensive moves which have made takeover history.

After exercising share options and receiving payment for his service contracts, Sir John is expected to net £2.7m. Mr Stephen Walls, the managing director, who joined the company only two years ago, should receive £1m.

Mr Walls will meet senior GEC and Siemens executives early next week to achieve an orderly transfer of control.

The agreement with Siemens has three main points: ● Siemens will take a 40 per cent stake in GPT, the telecommunications group now owned jointly by GEC and Plessey.

● Plessey's defence businesses will be split, with GEC taking the avionics and anti-airborne warfare activities and Siemens the radar and communications operations.

● The rest of Plessey, including its semiconductor business, will be owned jointly by GEC and Siemens.

From Monday, Plessey will be replaced in the FT Ordinary Share Index by British Airways and in the FTSE-100 by Siehe.

An old order changes, Page 7; London Stock Exchange, Pages 14 and 15

Poland heads to new free economy

By Christopher Bobinski in Warsaw

POLAND'S new economic leadership is determined to steer the country back to a western-style free market economy once it has brought inflation under control by imposing strict but painful restrictions on money supply.

Mr Leszek Balcerowicz, an academic, who is to be the Deputy Premier responsible for the economy and Finance Minister, yesterday told a parliamentary committee: "We have an unrepeatable chance of implementing not only political but also economic change in the direction of a western style free market economy."

The Government, which is headed by Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, has Solidarity holding 10 portfolios and the communists four, of which one, the Foreign Trade Ministry, has yet to be filled.

Mr Balcerowicz told deputies that once inflation had been brought under control a move would be made to privatise the dominant state sector.

He said deflationary policies were imperative, but that it remained to be decided whether the clamp on the money supply should be imposed immediately or left while the government sought relief on servicing its \$39bn (\$25.1m) debt to the West.

Both Mr Balcerowicz and Mr Tadeusz Syryjczyk, who is to be Industry Minister in the Solidarity-led coalition Government, recognise that the results would be painful.

They would have to close and unemployment continue, and it was admitted there would be "a fall in the standard of living in the initial stages."

Discontent was growing in any case, Mr Balcerowicz said, and inflation had to be brought under control if the economy was to have a chance of development. There would be no controls on prices, however, he said.

Once the deflationary policies had begun to bite and Poland regained access to Western credit, Mr Balcerowicz said, the stability of Poland's currency would be brought in. Yesterday, General Czeslaw Kiszczak, Communist Party member who is to retain the post of Interior Minister which he has held since 1981, appeared in the new parliament and pledged his loyalty to Mr Mazowiecki.

He said that a number of departments in his ministry were to be disbanded including the one which dealt with the church, and now that it was the opposition, that the government telephone tapping, the opening of letters and general surveillance were to be reduced.

He did say though that industrial espionage operations abroad were profitable and would be maintained.

Green light for MBB takeover by Daimler

By David Marsh in Bonn

THE WEST GERMAN Government yesterday finally approved the takeover of Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Bornheim, the aerospace company, by Daimler-Benz, the motor group, to form one of the world's leading aircraft and defence groups.

Formation of the conglomerate with an expected turnover of DM80bn (£26bn) is certain to have wide repercussions on world aerospace markets. In France, where indigenous aircraft manufacturers will be dwarfed by Daimler, the move could rally support for similar restructuring.

Mr Helmut Haussmann, the West German Economics Minister, said yesterday he was turning down, on the grounds of overriding economic inter-

est, the April veto on the merger by the Federal Cartel Office. During three decades of West German anti-trust legislation, this represents the most important occasion when the Cartel Office has been overruled in this way.

Mr Haussmann said the step after a year of controversy, was "the most important competition decision of the post-war period."

But it drew heated criticism from the opposition Social Democratic party, which said yesterday the decision was a "scandal" marking a "black day" for economic policy.

Mr Haussmann announced a series of conditions for allowing the deal. These are designed to ease some of the

serious concern over concentration in the German arms sector voiced both by the Cartel Office and the Advisory Monopolies Commission, the chairman of which resigned last month over the issue.

The West German Government believes that bringing in Daimler to run MBB, at present owned by the public sector, will improve the country's performance in the European Airbus venture, in which MBB has a 37.9 per cent stake.

Among the conditions, Daimler and MBB will both have to give up naval activities within two years - including torpedoes and minehunters - while MBB will have to give up manufacture of drones (small pilotless aircraft). This adds up to

divestment in 1990 of companies with turnover of about DM1bn.

MBB will also have to sell within a year its 12.5 per cent stake in Krauss-Maffei, the maker of West Germany's Leopard tanks.

Two domestic arms groups - Diehl, which already owns 12.5 per cent of the tank manufacturer, and Rheinmetall - said yesterday they were interested in buying the Krauss-Maffei share.

Additionally, Daimler and MBB will have to sell four military procurement planning and service companies. Daimler has to agree that its representatives should not sit on the boards of other German arms companies.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

Table with columns for Frankfurt (Dm), Paris (FFr), and New York (\$). Lists price changes for various stocks and indices.

New York prices at 12.30pm.

Table with columns for London (Pence) and other indices. Lists price changes for various stocks.

WORLDWIDE WEATHER

Table with columns for City, Day, and Night. Lists weather conditions and temperatures for various cities worldwide.

C - Cloudy, W - Drizzle, F - Fog, S - Fair, B - Rain, H - Hail, R - Rain, S - Snow, T - Thunder, N - None, DPT - Dewpoint

Spicer Continued from Page 1

Assuming all the mergers between the Big Eight go through, the new firm would end up being the world's sixth largest - although it would still be a lot smaller than Coopers & Lybrand, the fifth largest, with fees of \$2.5bn.

The move is surprising in that these firms - along with other medium-sized ones - had tended to condemn this summer's wave of mergers between the Big Eight.

This has seen Ernst & Whinney come together with Arthur Young to form Ernst & Young, whilst two other pairs of firms - Price Waterhouse and Arthur Andersen and Deloitte Haskins & Sells and Touche Ross - are still hammering out the terms of their respective alliances.

S&O and H&H are likely to argue, however, that they are compatible in terms of the type of customers they serve, and the niche industries in which they operate.

Both target their business towards the medium-sized public company and family-owned businesses, rather than the multinationals favoured by the Big Eight.

The firms have very different business specialisations. H&H - the UK arm of which is Spoy Hayward - has strengths in the property market, leisure and travel and healthcare. S&O is strong in the financial services industry, especially on Wall Street, in the US, and in the City of London.

Neither of the two firms' UK arms would comment on the status of the talks, but Mr George Bernstein, H&H's US-based chief executive, went "on the record" to stress just how tentative the talks were at this stage.

He said that over the last weeks there had been preliminary talks at a very senior level on both sides of the Atlantic.

On Thursday night, Spicer's London office denied that any talks were taking place, suggesting that few but the most senior partners knew what was taking place.

Company scrutiny Continued from Page 1

would enable developing countries to produce ballistic missiles with warheads of 500kg or more.

However, France, Italy and West Germany have been accused in the past of applying the restrictions loosely. The US, Britain, Canada and Japan are also party to the agreement.

Under the UK guidelines, exports to certain "proscribed" countries are automatically vetoed. These countries, covering the Warsaw Pact and several others, do not include Iraq.

However, current policy prohibits sales to Iraq or Iran of lethal weapons or equipment that could significantly improve either country's mili-

tary capability. Similar provisions are in force for Argentina.

It is up to the Department of Trade and Industry to decide whether to consult the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defence on export licence applications to these countries for equipment which might be considered as "dual-use."

An exporter must declare what an export licence is destined for, but may not be blamed if the item is diverted to other uses.

Officials said that companies usually saw it as being in their interest to comply honestly with the system.

"But if you really want to break the export control rules, your chances of getting away

with it are pretty high," one official admitted.

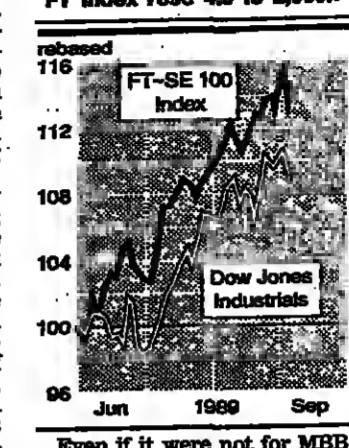
The Government has shown concern about the involvement of Technology Development Group (TDG), an Iraqi-owned company which has a small stakeholding in Matrix Churchill and has several board members in common with the Coventry concern, in the purchase of a former Lear Van plant near Belfast.

THE TEN COLUMN

The equity market thinks twice

The great bull market of 1989 is getting a bit tired. Wall Street has had one of its weakest weeks this year and London is struggling in vain to reach its pre-crash peak.

FT Index rose 4.6 to 2,003.7



Even if it were not for MBB, Daimler's share price might seem too high. With earnings likely to decline for the next two years until the new models come through, it is hard to see why the shares should be on a prospective multiple of 17 times.

Anyone who wants an exposure to Airbus should buy BAe, and those wanting German cars would do better with BMW, both of which can be had on half the rating. Of course, none of this means that Daimler's shares will not continue to rise. The company needs to get away a big rights issue next week and Monday's earnings are therefore likely to be pleasing. The shares are 90 per cent owned in Germany and investors there appear long-sighted enough not only to see the new Daimler models in 1991, but in the still more distant future can apparently see the MBB promise.

Daimler/MBB

When a Government gives its blessing to an anti-competitive merger against the advice of the monopolies authorities, one can usually assume that shareholders can rejoice. That is not the case in the takeover of MBB by Daimler-Benz.

Even though the conditions imposed on the deal are a painless political sop which impose almost no hurt on Daimler, it is far from clear whether the merger itself is in shareholders' interests. So far, the market has taken a strangely positive line and its initial response yesterday was to mark the shares up, as if unaware that it may be several years before MBB merges with a Lloyds/Abbey Life, FS/Britannia and last Wednesday's deal between Swiss Life and Pioneer Mutual.

The notion that it is all for the best for some institutions comes in a PA Consulting Group study. Since its author prophesied life assurance mergers such as Lloyds/Abbey Life, FS/Britannia and last Wednesday's deal between Swiss Life and Pioneer Mutual, the idea may not be as foolish as it sounds. The savings market's most striking phenomenon has been exponential growth in new mortgage lending linked to endowment poli-

cies, reaching nearly £3.5bn in 1988. Consumers saw ever-appreciating bricks-and-mortar as the optimal investment, hard-selling institutions ensured that this meant a boom in withdrawal insurance. Falling house prices and rising mortgage arrears break the pattern for good, releasing pent-up cash into pure savings vehicles, not housing.

The October 1987 crash captured the chances that equities would be the preferred medium; the 1988 Budget undermined the attractions of capital gains-based investments. The winners, according to PA, will be institutions which devise new generations of simple, mass-marketed yield-based savings products, and it will only be the largest which can afford to.

BA/UAL

British Airways can feel reasonably satisfied with the stock market's reception to its share issue in the \$300 a share bid for UAL, the second biggest US airline. In spite of the high price being offered and the negative impact on an already heavily geared balance sheet, BA's shares ended the week higher, the fact that UAL's shares have not jumped above the offer price means that BA and its partners may not have to get involved in a dangerous bidding auction after all.

The commercial logic of the BA/UAL deal is understandable, even though the short-term financial appeal is far less compelling. US airlines have a habit of losing huge amounts of money in a recession and the belief that the recent widespread consolidation in the industry means that this will no longer hold true is a hostage to fortune.

The shortage of airport capacity on both sides of the Atlantic means that entrenched airlines like BA and UAL are far better placed to defeat competition while they dominate flights into key airports like Heathrow and Chicago. This is why this link deserves extra-special scrutiny in Brussels, if not in London or Washington.

Housing market

Given the paralysis in much of the UK's housing market, it may be dotty to say the whole thing is a god-send to the largest savings institutions.

After all, if events vindicate Thursday's warning from houses builder Wilson Bowden that this is the softest housing market for 25 years, they are exposed as mortgage lenders, suppliers of insurance, and estate agency operators.

The notion that it is all for the best for some institutions comes in a PA Consulting Group study. Since its author prophesied life assurance mergers such as Lloyds/Abbey Life, FS/Britannia and last Wednesday's deal between Swiss Life and Pioneer Mutual, the idea may not be as foolish as it sounds. The savings market's most striking phenomenon has been exponential growth in new mortgage lending linked to endowment poli-

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MARKETS

LONDON

FINANCE & THE FAMILY: THIS WEEK

Results season in full swing

The interim profit reporting season continues at full pace next week with results expected from leading companies in several industrial sectors...

BES business still brisk

Despite the large number of Business Expansion Schemes on the market and the efforts made to market them, new BES offers are still popping up...

Tartan tonic for the Rock

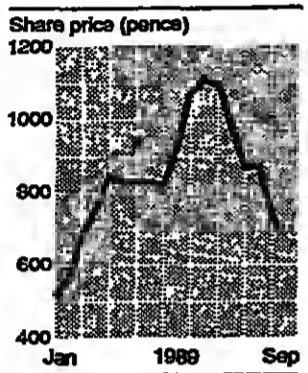
The opening on Monday of the Bank of Scotland's new office in Gibraltar is a welcome piece of good news for the colony...

Machiavelli had it right

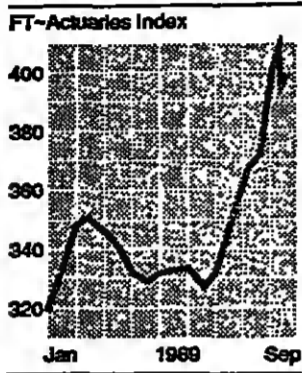
The Florentine Republic master-diplomat Niccolò Machiavelli might be thought an unlikely mentor for the modern entrepreneur...

BRIEF CASE: Right to see accounts: Page VI

Eurotunnel Units



Merchant Banks



Further blow for Eurotunnel shares

Eurotunnel shares suffered a further blow this week with the revelation that the construction companies building the tunnel want the company to raise funds through a rights issue...

Merchant bank sector is lifted

Share prices in the merchant banks sector made rapid progress this week after a long period of underperformance...

House prices still in decline

Further confirmation of the decline in house prices was provided by the Halifax Building Society this week...

The society said that this was the first time in recent years that prices have fallen during the summer...

Unit trust figures

Australian funds were the top performing unit trusts during August, according to figures issued by Micropal...

Council homes sales investigated

The Department of Trade and Industry said that it was investigating whether there has been any "misconduct" at Homes Assured...

Autumnal chill takes the heat out of rally

THE STOCK MARKET has been full of confidence throughout the summer but this week it betrayed a few signs of nervousness as autumn approached...

On Wednesday, rumours of a big rights issue and a sudden downturn on Wall Street caused the FT-SE 100 Index to fall 35 points...

There was also an increased 137m offer this week from Lilley for fellow construction group Tibbury...

Norton obtained a High Court injunction against Bankers Trust, which was acting as adviser to Bowater...

There is nothing that the market enjoys more than a good takeover battle and a three-way scrap began this week when Bowater Industries, the packaging and industrial products group...

Meanwhile the GEC-Siemens bid for electronics group Plessey seems finally to have come to an end...

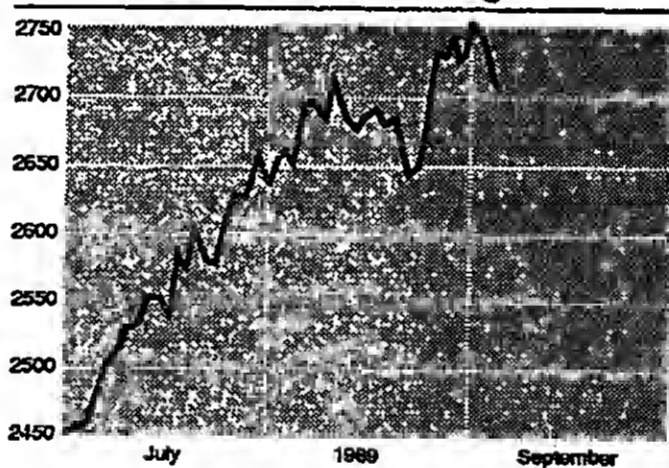
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Table with columns: Share, Change on week, 1988 High, 1988 Low. Rows include FT-SE 100 Index, BP, Burmah, Cable & Wireless, Capital Radio, Carlton Comms, Comm. Union, Conder, Cookson, Enterprise OH, Eurotunnel Units, F&I, Kleinwort Benson, Logica, Lowe Howard, Miller & Santhouse.

WALL STREET

Where have all the bargains gone?

Dow Jones Industrial Averages



Last month, indeed, apart from the takeover-driven airlines, the strongest market sectors in August were non-ferrous metals and aluminium companies...

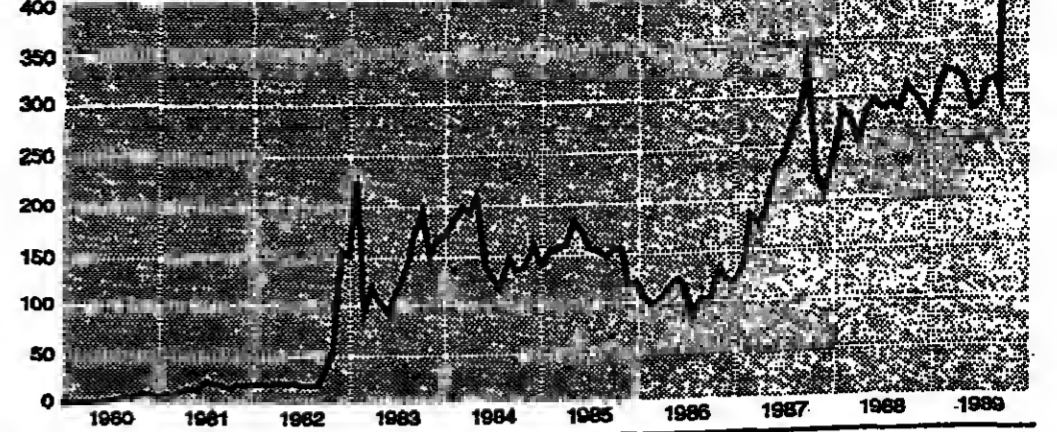
Looking towards the slightly longer term, however, a very big question is still begged by this relatively sceptical analysis of the opportunities left on Wall Street...

ability to compete against the world. If neither of these developments is likely than a further large-scale reassessment of relative values on Wall Street is still on the cards...

The reasons why Wall Street fears a consumer and investment boom are familiar enough. Strong economic growth will tend to fuel inflation and this in turn could lead to a reversal of the downward trend in interest rates...

Polly Peck International

Share price (pence)



There are those who fear that analysts' forecasts of earnings growth might be over-optimistic

AT TIMES, motor dealers can appear to resemble local barons of feudal times, glowering over the top of their ramparts...

Fall of the motor baron

The company is mainly involved in inspection and non-destructive testing in the oil and power generating industries...

AT TIMES, motor dealers can appear to resemble local barons of feudal times, glowering over the top of their ramparts...

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Continued from Page I official to resign immediately, a Commission official can simply apply for up to three months' personal leave to campaign...

general to win election as Tory Euro-MP for Hampshire East and the Isle of Wight. Despite such Strasbourg successes as getting a ban on the import of baby seal fur into the Community...

probably the very first Berlaymont thriller called - guess what - the Commission. Johnson is so far the only MEP to return to the Commission. But some Tory MEPs who lost their seats in June were Commission officials...

down, there are some refugees from national politics - Laurens Brinkhorst, a former Dutch minister who runs the Commission environment directorate and indeed Andreas Van Agt, an ex-Dutch prime minister, who is currently the Commission's man in Tokyo and now slated for Washington...

is young and, even more, because it is multinational - the Commission lacks an administrative tradition. To some this is a key failing. This shows, says a (Belgian) Eurocrat, in the way that minutes of meetings are written up. Only the British do it automatically, he says...

the cabinet get together to prepare an agenda for Commissioners at their regular Wednesday meetings. To others, this lack matters little. A senior British Eurocrat says he was brought up in the Whitehall tradition - 'minutes on the left hand side of the file and letters on the right hand side'. Sure, he admits the way of doing business is messy. But it gets done, he claims, and quickly. Decision making is measurably speedier than in Whitehall. Look, he says, at the way the Commission - and Council - decided on food aid for Poland. In nine days flat, 'By the results,' he stresses, 'shall ye judge us'.

AT TIMES, motor dealers can appear to resemble local barons of feudal times, glowering over the top of their ramparts...

AT TIMES, motor dealers can appear to resemble local barons of feudal times, glowering over the top of their ramparts...

FINANCE & THE FAMILY

John Edwards on TSB Trust's capital protection move Plan to reduce Jersey gilt fund dividend

THE TSB Trust Company has confirmed that it is planning to reduce the dividend on its Jersey-based gilt fund "to avoid an unacceptable erosion of capital." However, it is maintaining the present dividend policy for the next six months...

professional advisers and other fund managers is that the MIM Britannia Jersey gilt fund sustained a wrong investment strategy for too long in an attempt to maintain a high dividend figure that was used to attract investors...



The tide of ads promoting the latest privatisation is rising, reports Clare Pearson Up to our necks in water publicity

VIEWERS who have been watching for months TV images of a bright-eyed child gazing at the miracle of running water may be surprised to learn that the promotional campaign leading up to privatisation of the water industry started only this week.

However, the government advisers to the issue say the idea was thought up 12 months ago, and is needed because of the sheer complexities of the water offer.

What the incentives will actually be is due to be announced on Tuesday. It is, however, assumed that following the pattern of some previous privatisations, there will be a loyalty bonus, probably on one-for-ten basis...

These perks are likely to differ in that the Government is keen to encourage people to invest in all the companies, and not just, say, the biggest.

The industry as a whole, and a reply-paid registration card, addressed to the Bristol-based water share information office.

SHARE OFFER TIMETABLE

Table with columns for dates and descriptions of share offer events, including 'Next week', 'Sept 12', 'Late Sept/early Oct', 'October', 'Early November', 'November 22', 'December 5', 'December 12', and 'December 20'.

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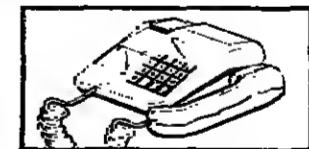


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So, if you're about to invest in a unit trust, Personal Equity Plan or Personal Pension, ask your Independent Financial Adviser about Fidelity's Total Performance or Callfree Fidelity on 0800 414161.

And, if you already invest, compare the performance you're now getting against the benefits of Total Performance. Because, honestly, you can't afford anything less.



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Optimistic Abbey

IF YOU hold Abbey National shares and are wondering when to sell them, the outlook now looks rather encouraging. On Thursday, when Abbey National tipped a further 22m shares into the market...

something of a scarcity of Abbey shares as far as the large institutional investors are concerned. It is difficult to say how many of the small investors are consciously hanging on to the shares until the price improves...

David Barchard

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We are pleased to announce the opening of our new London headquarters. We had difficulties with our telephone system in the first few days - now all is well. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

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\*Source: Planned Savings Data Services to L8.89. Group weighted performance, offer to offer, net income reinvested to L8.89. Remember, past performance is no guarantee of future returns and the value of units reflects the value of the underlying investments and may fluctuate and is not guaranteed.



FINANCE & THE FAMILY

THE WEEK AHEAD

Results season in full swing

Table with columns: Company, Announcement due, Dividend (p), Last year, This year. Lists various companies and their financial details.

THE INTERIM profit reporting season continues at full pace next week, with results expected from leading companies in several industrial sectors.

RTZ, the world's largest mining company, seems well on course to break through the £1bn pre-tax profit barrier this year, based on the strong performance of its operations in North America, Australia and Africa.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation (Wednesday) and Associated British Ports (Thursday) give next week's interim profits of £160m against £111.7m last time.

ABP is harder to call because the impact of the dock strike earlier this year is still unclear. Port activities were performing well before the dispute, but property profits were likely to be flatter for cyclical reasons.

United Biscuits, headed by chairman Sir Hector Laing, is looking forward to a chillier end to the year. Cooler weather should harden up core biscuits and the Terry's chocolate business, which tended to soften in the summer heat.

Analysts expect pre-tax profits for the six months of around £77m against £86.6m last time.

perhaps even reach £38m. Either way the performance will be a great deal better than the £17m loss sustained by Kleinwort's in the second half of last year.

RTZ, the world's largest mining company, seems well on course to break through the £1bn pre-tax profit barrier this year.

Equally interesting will be the interim results on Wednesday. The good news is that the participation rate - the share of life profits going to shareholders - will rise from 7.5 per cent to 10 per cent.

The chief blotch on the balance sheet is likely to come from losses by the Pru's estate agency chain, which some analysts say could reach £5m.

The London & Scottish Marine Oil Company (Lsmo) is expected to report net earnings in the range of £25m to £30m.

Jaguar announced interim results on Wednesday with analysis expecting a sharp fall in pre-tax profits from £22.5m to about £8m.

Rugby, which reports on Monday, will have benefited from the higher cement sales and prices in the East.

Profits here should be enhanced by volume growth and the savings from integrating the purchase with UB's existing frozen sector interests.

according to how much analysts expect the group's large exposure to UK housing will have reduced gains from UK contracting and from increased profits from housing in California.

Rolls Royce (interim Thursday) has been possibly its best six months in terms of order intake, but for the moment the city is looking for between £55m and £65m pre-tax.

Delta Group, the engineering and industrial equipment com-

pany, will display some of the preliminary benefits of the restructuring of its cable activities when the interim results are released on Monday.

UK Paper, manufacturer of fine grade papers and paper merchant, is expected to unveil pre-tax profits slightly in excess of £5m, up from £3.4m on Tuesday.

Two retailing groups which have both benefited in different ways from the philosophy of piling it high and selling it cheap are B&M and Kingfisher.

Kingfisher, formerly known as Woolworths, is likely to record pre-tax profits of between £51m and £55m on Tuesday.

Batens, which accounts for about 25 per cent of the UK jewellery market and is now looking to expand in the US, may announce first half takeable profits of about £2m on Thursday.

tough hedging provisions made in 1987 allows some of these losses to be written back. The Rover business, in for only its second six months, is expected to contribute between £25m and £28m.

Rolls Royce (interim Thursday) has been possibly its best six months in terms of order intake, but for the moment the city is looking for between £55m and £65m pre-tax.

A solid performance from BTR Nylex, BTR's Australian subsidiary which has already reported interim results, will help lift the parent company to about £470m (£268m) pre-tax at its own half way stage.

DRG, paper and packaging group beset with takeover speculation due to a major 25 per cent stake held by US investor Roland Franklin, will want to wheel out some impressive-looking numbers for its interim results on Wednesday.

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Sir Hector Laing, chairman of United Biscuits



David Abell heading a hectic year at Suter

COMPANY NEWS SUMMARY

Table with columns: Company, Bid for, Value of bid per share, Market price, Price below bid, Value of bid, Bidder. Lists various companies and their financial details.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Table with columns: Company, Year, Pre-tax profit (£000), Earnings per share (p), Dividends per share (p). Lists various companies and their financial details.

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Large table with columns: Company, Half-year to, Pre-tax profit (£000), Interim dividends per share (p). Lists numerous companies and their financial details.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Acis is to raise £21.2m via a five-for-12 rights issue at 55p. CCS Group is to raise £1.4m via a one-for-2.388 rights issue.

OFFERS FOR SALE, PLACINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Verdy Meg is to join the main market early next month, via a placing that will value it at about £20m.

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In the footsteps of Midas

IN GREEK mythology, Midas was the king who was granted a golden touch. The modern-day version of Midas (Multi-Index Driven with Assets Secured), launched in the form of an offshore bond by Johnson Fry Financial Services...

PEPs given a vote of approval

THE NEW-STYLE personal equity plans (PEPs) are an innovation which may turn out to be at least as important for wider share ownership as the Government's privatisation policy, according to a survey by the UBS Phillips & Drew stockbroking group.

FINANCE & THE FAMILY

John Edwards on the revamp of an old plan
New fund from M & G

M & G's FIRST new fund to be launched for four years, announced this week, is an unusual animal. Called M & G European Dividend, it is in fact a relaunch of an existing fund, External Investment Trust (EXIT), which is to be unissued on September 29.

To solve its dilemma by converting EXIT into an income-producing counterpart of the M&G European & General Fund, which aims solely at capital growth.

Although a lot of extra money is expected to come in, some of the M & G funds will have to reduce their present holdings and the new trust doesn't have the advantage of starting with a clean sheet. It is already a sizeable fund so it may get off to a slow start, although European markets are performing strongly.

Heather Farmbrough on new plans for investors
Business still brisk for expansion schemes



River Trader, the first tanker in the Short Sea Europe BES

IT SEEMS hard to imagine that there could still be anyone with any money left to invest in Business Expansion Schemes over the last (1988-9) tax year, given the monumental marketing efforts of the sponsors involved at the time.

not an assured tenancy company either, is Bristol Commercial developments, a property development company building office accommodation near Bristol on a site near the M4 and M5 intersection. The minimum subscription is £3,000 in a combination of BES ordinary and preference shares.

The second is the latest (fourth) variation on its successful Roman Property Trust, which intends to acquire sheltered housing for letting on assured tenancies.

to make money, or so the sponsors say. One special feature of the scheme is the intention to invest up to 10 per cent of the money raised in homes to be used as holiday sites in northern France. This is quite a good idea, but it is a shame that in order to comply with the Inland Revenue rules, it has to be confined to only 10 per cent. There are a lot of people who would much rather have a stake in the French property market than the UK one.

Small company, big prospects

SMALL companies have been lagging behind the shares of big groups on the London Stock Market recently, although historically they have outperformed their bigger brethren. So GT believes the time is ripe for the launch this week of its new Smaller Companies Dividend Fund.

rather than sound businesses. The initial gross yield is estimated at 4.1 per cent, based on the offer price of 50p a unit available until September 29.

Sitinations Fund. It has been formed by merging three small existing Royal Trust funds with similar investment objectives: Northgate, Arbutnot Capital Growth and Royal Trust of Canada Capital Fund.

INTEREST RATES: WHAT YOU SHOULD GET FOR YOUR MONEY

Table with columns: Quoted rate %, Compounded return for taxpayers at 25%, 40%, Frequency of payment, Tax (see notes), Amount invested £, Withdrawal (days). Rows include CLEARING BANK, BUILDING SOCIETY, NATIONAL SAVINGS, MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT, and UK GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

Six months that proved the value of a balanced range of activities.

AMEC INTERIM RESULTS table showing financial metrics for six months ended 30.6.89 and twelve months ended 31.12.88. Metrics include Turnover, Profit before tax, Profit after tax, Earnings per ordinary share (undiluted and diluted), and Dividends per ordinary share.

- Key points from the Chairman's statement:
- 72% increase in profit.
- 25% increase in earnings per share.
- 16% increase in ordinary dividends.
- AMEC has the balance and stability to resist market fluctuations and the strength to take advantage of change.
- We are confident of continued success.

AMEC logo and company information. Principal operating companies: AMEC Construction Services, AMEC International, AMEC Projects, AMEC Properties, AMEC Regeneration, AUST - AMEC, Barnard and Burk, CV Buchan, Denco, Fairclough Civil Engineering, Fairclough Homes, Fairclough-Parkinson Mining, Fairclough Scotland, Fire Protection Industries, Fisk, Franklin Hodge Industries, James Scott, IDC, Inpark, Intek, Matthew Hall Engineering, Matthew Hall Keynes Engineering, Matthew Hall Mechanical and Electrical Engineers, MAPLE Press Construction, Press Offshore, Robert Watson, Worsham Sprinkler.

Advertisement for B.A.T. LINE. Mike Wilson, Chief Executive of Allied Dunbar, gives the latest news and views on the Hoylake bid for B.A.T Industries. Call free. Any time. Includes phone number 0800 4 930 and B.A.T. LINE logo.







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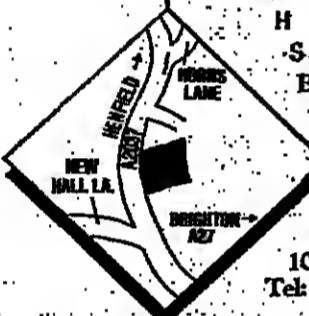
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SMALL DOLE HENFIELD SUSSEX

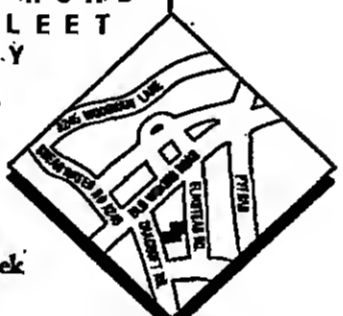
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CLEARANCE PROPERTIES Houses bought with Land or Part Exchange Fleet 4 bed approx £270,000 2/3rd Acre £270,000 Fleet 4 bed overlooking canal £275,000 Whitbourne 4 bed cottage £250,000 Nr Newbury Modern 4 bed £125,000 Darnwood 3 bed semi £85,000 for details contact Berkeley Homes 76 Surrey Road, Epsom, Essex E12 3JZ Tel: (0256) 47672 Fax: (0256) 47660

HAMPTONS AUCTIONS LONDON PROPERTY AUCTION 29TH SEPTEMBER 1989 Middlesex - Cuckoo Mews, The Bells, Brentford. By direction of Martin Grant Homes. New and restored/extended houses. Listed detached town house 4 recep, 4 beds. Listed cottage 3 beds, 9 new town houses 3 and 4 beds. More details of new houses and converted properties, which are now extremely affordable, may be had from the address below or at the properties. Viewing: Fridays and Mondays 4-7pm, Saturday 1-5pm and Sunday 2-5pm. For those who have not bought by auction before, we will be pleased to discuss procedures at the sale or beforehand. Little Road SW5, Moleston for Improvement. 1 recep, 1 1/2 bed, bath. Guide price: £30,000. Cheyne Court SW3. Mortgagee sale. Modernised apartment 2 recep, kit, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Guide price: £200,000. Middlesex - Northwood. Character 4 bed detached building plot with listed consent. Guide price: £500,000. Auction Department, 6 Arlington Road, St. James's London SW1 Tel: 01 493 8222

William H. Brown AGRICULTURAL MID SUFFOLK FASBOURN HALL, BUXHALL near STOWMARKET 422 ACRES or thereabouts WEST SUFFOLK CHURCH FARM, KENNY HILL, near MILDENHALL 107.26 ACRES or thereabouts Superb Residential Arable Farm/Highly Productive Arable Farm Period Farmhouse - Detached Bungalow Traditional and Modern Farm Building Predominantly Grade 2 Arable Land Sugar Beet Quota - Irrigation For Sale as a whole or in 7 Lots CHURNMILK FARM, BUXHALL, near STOWMARKET 60 ACRES or thereabouts Fertile Arable Land adjoining Fasbourn Hall Range of traditional farm buildings SOUTH NORFOLK OAKSIDE FARM, LONG STRATTON 6.30 ACRES or thereabouts 250 Sow Unit and ancillary buildings Traditional Farmhouse MID NORFOLK 200 Sow Unit and Bungalow Details October MID SUFFOLK - TO LET WARREN FARM, WETHEKEDEN Pig Rearing Accommodation Traditional Farm Buildings Offers invited for lease The above properties are all for sale by PRIVATE TREATY For full details please contact Ref: SPAORWH 18 ANGEL HILL, BURY ST. EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK IP39 1XQ Tel: (0284) 793521

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LONDON PROPERTY

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 Offers in the region of £230,000.  
 Cheltenham Office. Tel: (0242) 222909



**GLoucestershire - CHELTENHAM**  
 Within 10 minutes walk of town centre, a magnificent Regency town house. Outstanding drawing room, dining room, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (inc suite), excellent garden level accommodation. Gas CH Well stocked gardens.  
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 Cheltenham Office. Tel: (0242) 222909



**GLoucestershire - CHELTENHAM**  
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 Offers in excess of £275,000.  
 Cheltenham Office. Tel: (0242) 222909



**GLoucestershire - BOURTON ON THE WATER**  
 A select development of natural Cotswold stone houses set in the picturesque village. 3 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, cloakroom, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Double garage, walled garden.  
 Guide Price £219,000.  
 Cheltenham Office. Tel: (0242) 222909



**GLoucestershire - BOURTON ON THE WATER**  
 Well placed Downham Market and A10. Well presented substantial Victorian farm house in rural hamlet. 3 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom, conservatory, cellar, utility, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room. Garage, outbuildings, glorious partly walled enclosed garden - about 2 acres.  
 Region £300,000.  
 Bury St. Edmunds Office. Tel: (0284) 767338



**NORTH NORFOLK COAST - BURNHAM MARKET**  
 A fine Georgian house situated in an unrivalled and elevated position. Entrance hall, drawing room, dining room, sitting room, study, studio/annexe, kitchen, utility, 2 cloakrooms, master bedrooms with en-suite bathroom, 4 further bedrooms. Grounds of about 1 acre.  
 Guide Price: £325,000.  
 Norwich Office. Tel: (0603) 761478



**BETWEEN HOVE AND BAKENHAM**  
 A fine Georgian house, immaculately maintained. Entrance porch, entrance hall, drawing room, dining room, rear hall, cellar, sitting room, kitchen, walk in pantry, rear lobby, shower room, large landing, 5 bedrooms, bathroom. Landscaped gardens of about 2 acres.  
 Guide Price: £275,000.  
 Norwich Office. Tel: (0603) 761478



**WEST NORFOLK**  
 Well placed Downham Market and A10. Well presented substantial Victorian farm house in rural hamlet. 3 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom, conservatory, cellar, utility, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room. Garage, outbuildings, glorious partly walled enclosed garden - about 2 acres.  
 Region £300,000.  
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**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - HEDGERLEY GREEN**  
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 Offers invited.  
 Beaconsfield Office. Tel: (0494) 677744



**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE - PENN**  
 A fine Georgian house, immaculately maintained. Entrance porch, entrance hall, drawing room, dining room, rear hall, cellar, sitting room, kitchen, walk in pantry, rear lobby, shower room, large landing, 5 bedrooms, bathroom. Landscaped gardens of about 2 acres.  
 Guide Price: £275,000.  
 Norwich Office. Tel: (0603) 761478



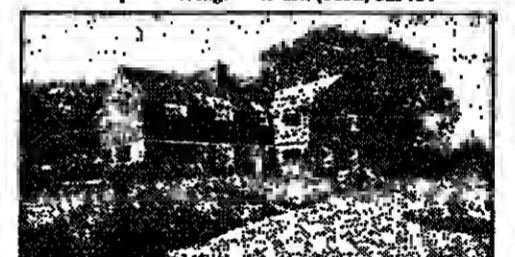
**OXFORDSHIRE - NEAR BURFORD**  
 Burford 1/2 mile, A40 3 minutes. Charlbury Station 8 miles. An outstanding restoration and renovation of a Period Cotswold stone village house providing light and spacious accommodation of exceedingly high standards, combining period charm with superb modern amenities. Sitting room, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, cellar, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garage, parking, walled South-facing garden.  
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 Burford Office. Tel: (0993) 823636



**SURREY - SHIRLEY HILL**  
 Hall, reception room, fitted breakfast room, utility room, cellar. Master bedroom suite with dressing room and bathroom. Guest accommodation, two further bedrooms, family bathroom. Indoor pool with sauna. Wooded grounds to excess of 1 acre.  
 Offers in the region of £450,000. Shirley Office.  
 Tel: 01-656 8311 and Tibert Mosley. Tel: (0732) 452246.



**EAST SUSSEX - ROTHERFIELD**  
 A fine Tudor-style farmhouse in need of modernisation. Entrance vestibule, cloakroom, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, pantry, master bedroom with en-suite dressing room, 4 further bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Numerous outbuildings including Sussex barn with conversion potential. Grazing pasture and some woodland totalling approximately 64 acres.  
 Auction 26 September.  
 Auction Dept. Tunbridge Well. Tel: (0892) 515464



**HENLEY ON THAMES**  
 An impressive detached home built in 1930's with planning permission for a substantial two storey extension. Triple aspect drawing room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room. Cloakroom, utility room, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, oil CH, double glazing, detached double garage, heated swimming pool.  
 Auction 27th September.  
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**HERTFORDSHIRE - MUCH HADHAM**  
 Bishop's Stortford 5 miles. Ware 7 miles. A10 6 miles. Part of the former Summer Palace of the Bishops of London. An historic village house with Royal connections. Hall, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, cloak & utility room, cellars, 7 bedrooms, dressing room, 4 bathrooms. Heated swimming pool. In all, approx. 2 1/2 acres.  
 Bishop's Stortford Office. Tel: (0279) 758385



**MAIDENHEAD - NEARTAPLOW**  
 Direct river frontage with mooring. Unique riverside town house in a private road. Riverside views. Drawing room with dining area, family room, cloakroom, fitted kitchen, laundry room, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, en-suite shower room, tower room/bedroom 5. Full gas CH. Double glazing. Double garage. Private gardens.  
 Auction 27th September.  
 Auction Dept. Cookham. Tel: (06285) 27433



**BOURN END**  
 With possible development potential. In grounds of one acre. Substantial portion of a large Grade II Listed property the main part of which dates back to 1700. Fine drawing room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, shower room, 5 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room.  
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 Auction Dept. Cookham. Tel: (06285) 27433.

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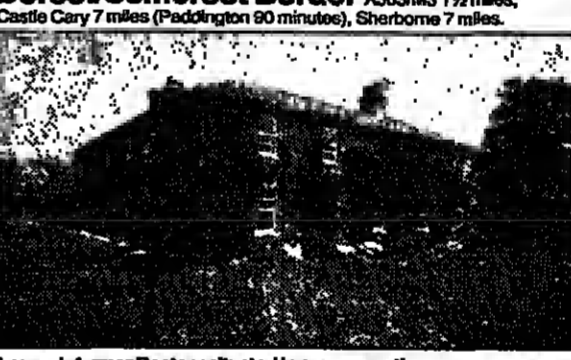
Most appealing Listed Thatched 4-Bedroomed Cottage Farmhouse and its superbly landscaped garden overlooking the sea towards Dartmouth. Together with detached stone barn with outline planning permission for 4-bedroomed dwelling with delightful 1/2-acre garden.

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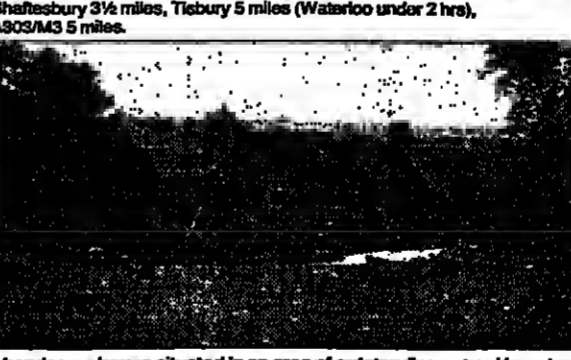
**Dorset/Somerset Border** A303/A3 1 1/2 miles, Castle Cary 7 miles (Paddington 90 minutes), Sherborne 7 miles.



A superb former Rectory situated in a conservation area. 4 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, drawing room, 4 bathrooms, cloakroom, kitchen 9'4" x 11'. Oil central heating. Guest/self accommodation. Extensive garaging. Outbuildings. Grounds. Paddock.

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 Details: Shaftesbury Office, Tel: (0747) 53492 11/8643/UNS

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 Shaftesbury 3 1/2 miles, Tisbury 5 miles (Waterloo under 2 hrs), A303/A3 5 miles.




A handsome house situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty. 4 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 3 dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms, cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room. Oil central heating. Garaging, outbuildings and stabling. Garden. Paddock. Annex with hall, sitting room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom.

Price Guide: £575,000 Freehold with about 10 1/2 acres.  
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London Office: 01-629 6700  
 Shaftesbury Office: 0747 53492  
 Humberts, Chartered Surveyors  
 25 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9PE  
 Telex: 27444


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**SOMERSET/WILTSHIRE BORDERS**  
 Bath 15 miles. Frome 2 miles. Warminster 6 miles.



A small Residential Estate in a beautiful setting. A delightful 17th Century Listed Manor House with Great Hall, Library, Dining Room, 6 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms. Modern 3 bedroomed Cottage. Stable yard with 8 boxes. A range of modern farm buildings including covered yards and barns. An attractively landscaped trout lake and stream with about 95 Acres of pasture.  
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 Marples Wharf, 210 Lower Bristol Road, Bath  
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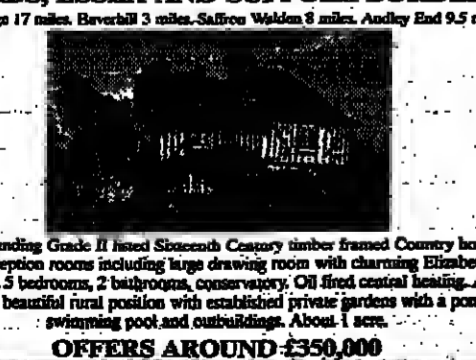
**PORTBURY, NEAR BRISTOL**  
 Bristol 15 minutes, London 70 minutes from Bristol (InterCity train)



A fascinating Grade II Listed former Priory dating from 1180 which has been carefully restored to provide a charming village house. Drawing Room, Dining Room, Study, Kitchen, Playroom, 5 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, extensive Cellars. Gas central heating. Ancient walled gardens. 9 Sadler Street, Wells. Tel: (0749) 78012.

**BIDWELLS** 0223 841842  
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 Cambridge 17 miles. Beverhill 3 miles. Saffron Walden 6 miles. Andley End 9.5 miles.




An outstanding Grade II listed Sixteenth Century timber framed Country house. Hall 3 reception rooms including large drawing room with charming Elizabethan fireplace, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, conservatory. Oil fired central heating. Age-Set in a beautiful rural position with established private gardens with a pond, swimming pool and outbuildings. About 1 acre.  
**OFFERS AROUND £350,000**

Stonecross, Trumpington High Street, Cambridge CB2 2SL

**BIDWELLS** 0223 841842  
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**SUFFOLK**  
 Close to Bury St Edmunds.  
 By Direction of the National Trust



An opportunity to purchase and restore a small cottage idyllically situated in the heart of the Ickworth Estate.  
 About one third of an acre.  
**Offers around £85,000**  
 99 Years Leasehold.

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PROPERTY

# Art for the sake of the leisure industry

Audrey Powell on a Spanish development with a refreshingly different approach

**WE** ARE familiar with "theme parks" and "theme" holidays. Why not property developments with a theme?

From Gibraltar drive to Algeciras, the opposite way to the more well-worn route for tourists along Spain's Mediterranean coast, Algeciras is an interesting city with an attractive waterfront. It is claimed to be the second largest container port after Rotterdam and is likely to become the most important port in Spain. It is an area well off the package holidaymakers' track.

A little further on is the village of El Pelayo. You are now in rugged, almost Scottish, country. An entrance you would hardly notice leads into the 12-acres of the Las Columnas estate, climbing a hillside with views across to Gibraltar and the north African coast.

Springs and streams keep it lushly green, even in the driest season. Cork oaks and eucalyptus cover the ground. There are patches of Morning Glory, scarlet hibiscus or purple bougainvillea - usually beside some small, white ruined building nestled in the folds of hilly land.

The place and its former owner, the previous Lord St Oswald, played host to many important and famous names there. Some personalities came to relax in the simple buildings dotted around grounds that are now prey to weeds and brambles. Others came to discuss matters of state well away from the spotlight.

There is the white tower that was a favourite of Winston Churchill; the cottage where



Las Columnas estate where there are plans for an artists' village

Harold Macmillan found he could lie in the bath and survey all the surrounding countryside. At Las Columnas, Franco held discussions on the restoration of the Spanish monarchy. A member of the British royal family leaned to water-ski in the swimming pool. Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton came to sort out their problems. . . It seems to have been a sort of Spanish Cliveden.

But that is history. The present Lord St Oswald had no use for the estate when he inherited it and it was sold. Its new owner is 37-year old Mats Palmquist, who is Swedish, with a Spanish wife. In a many-faceted career his most successful enterprise was ski resort organisation. Now, with

his partner, accountant Leif Andersson, he plans to be developer, hotelier and patron of the arts at Las Columnas.

He believes that artists can only do their best work if day to day worries are taken off their shoulders. So, within the estate, he plans to build 22 studios, forming a "village" where artists and sculptors may come to live and work for from a month to a year, as his "guests". The studios will replicate the small buildings that are now crumbling away, and include any usable items from them.

The artists may bring their families if they wish. Dancers and string musicians will also be invited to perform in an amphitheatre in the grounds. But for whom?

Palmquist's plan is, in effect, to bring audiences to the artists, for a hotel will be built in one part of the estate, and a group of quality homes in another. He hopes both hotel visitors and home owners will become interested in the artists' colony and purchase work produced there. He searched for several years for what he considers the right site for this enterprise - the clear light along the coast was a big plus.

Some existing buildings, just below the highest point of the steeply sloping site, will be linked to form the basis of the five-star hotel, which will have its own gallery for displaying the artists' work. (Perhaps a useful hunting ground for investors in an as yet "unknown").

But Palmquist, who is above all an "ideas man" has further ways in mind to help young artists or indeed, established ones, who may take a break in his "village". He thinks perhaps 50 may spend time at the studios in the course of a year, and intends to make international tours, taking in six cities, displaying work done there. Pieces sold will remain with the exhibition throughout the tour. Palmquist's company, Dukla SA, will take 40 to 45 per cent of the price they fetch (a lower percentage than is taken by a normal gallery, he points out).

He has an art co-ordinator and to ensure a high standard a "jury of judges" will vet samples from applicants who would like to stay at the village. Those short-listed will be

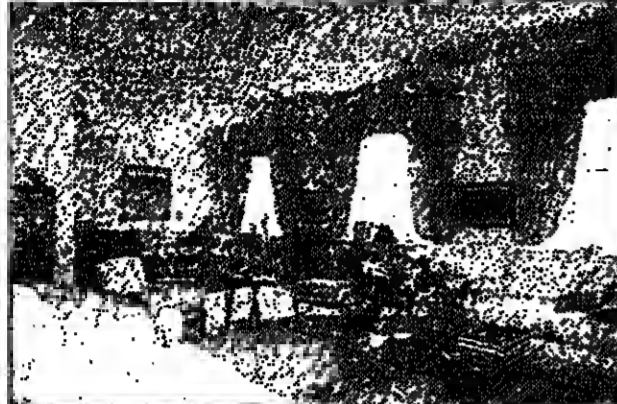
asked to describe what project they would be working on while there. He admits: "We are looking for winners".

Properties for sale will mostly be on three floors and are described as apartment-villas. They have been designed by Jesus del Valle, of Granada, the project's main architect. They will be offered as shells, with buyers free to stipulate how they would like the interiors completed. There will be garaging, but no gardens, since they will be surrounded by the estate grounds. Work on these is to start in a few months.

The villas are priced between £350,000 to £400,000 and will not be sold to speculators. Agents are FMS, Wesley House, Main Street, Gibraltar (who are at present also accepting names of applicants to stay at the artists' village). FMS has a UK office at Maidenhead, Berks, which is involved in the property sales (Tel: 0628-776000).

Algeciras is 40 minutes' drive from Gibraltar but the journey will be cut to 26 minutes when road works now under way are completed. It is expected that the airport at Gibraltar will eventually be upgraded or an international airport built nearby in Spain. The hotel may eventually prove a convenient conference venue and facilities will be provided for meetings of up to 150 business people (seen as being of senior executive status). One cannot help feeling that Las Columnas could become a gossip columnist's dream. Nevertheless it is a refreshing approach at a time when many developers seem sadly lacking in new ideas.

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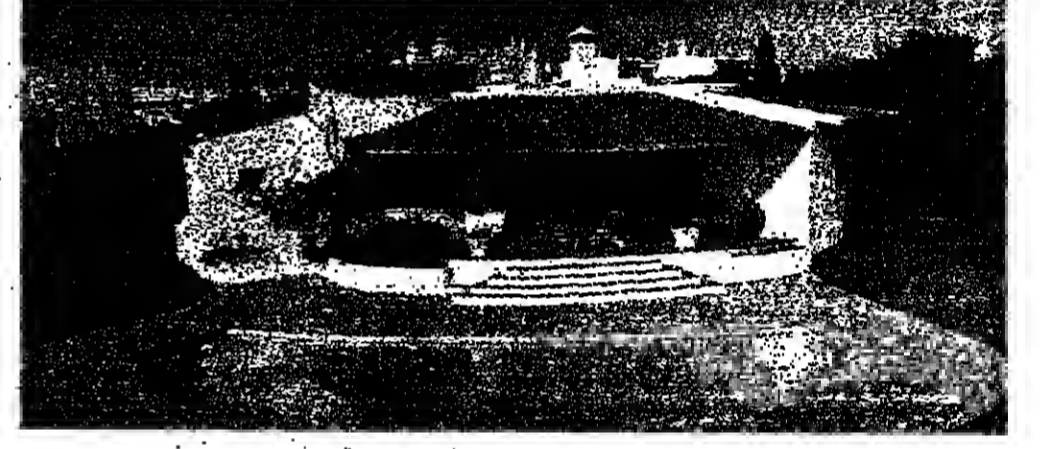
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AS CONTROL of development tightens in Portugal's Algarve province a much-needed new terminal has opened at Faro. So perhaps it is time to take another look at property on this southern coast. Anyone in the London area with that thought in mind might like to know that the eighth annual Algarve exhibition is being held at the Hilton hotel, in Park Lane, London, from September 24-26. Some 50 stands of

developers, agents, banks, solicitors, insurance companies, architects, designers, removal firms, medical protection services are among those who will be on hand. They will be able to give possible buyers an idea of what is available, the best way to fix finance, move furniture and even give advice on how to stock the new garden. Six mock-up villas in a typical Algarve square are being built in the hotel's

ballroom for visitors to sample. The exhibition is sponsored by Algarve Magazine and TAP Air Portugal. It is open to the public from 11 am to 8 pm on September 24 and 26, and 4 pm to 10.30 pm on September 25. For those considering a wider area, Homes Overseas exhibition (sponsored by Homes Overseas magazine) will be at London's Waldorf hotel, Aldwych, from September 22-24.



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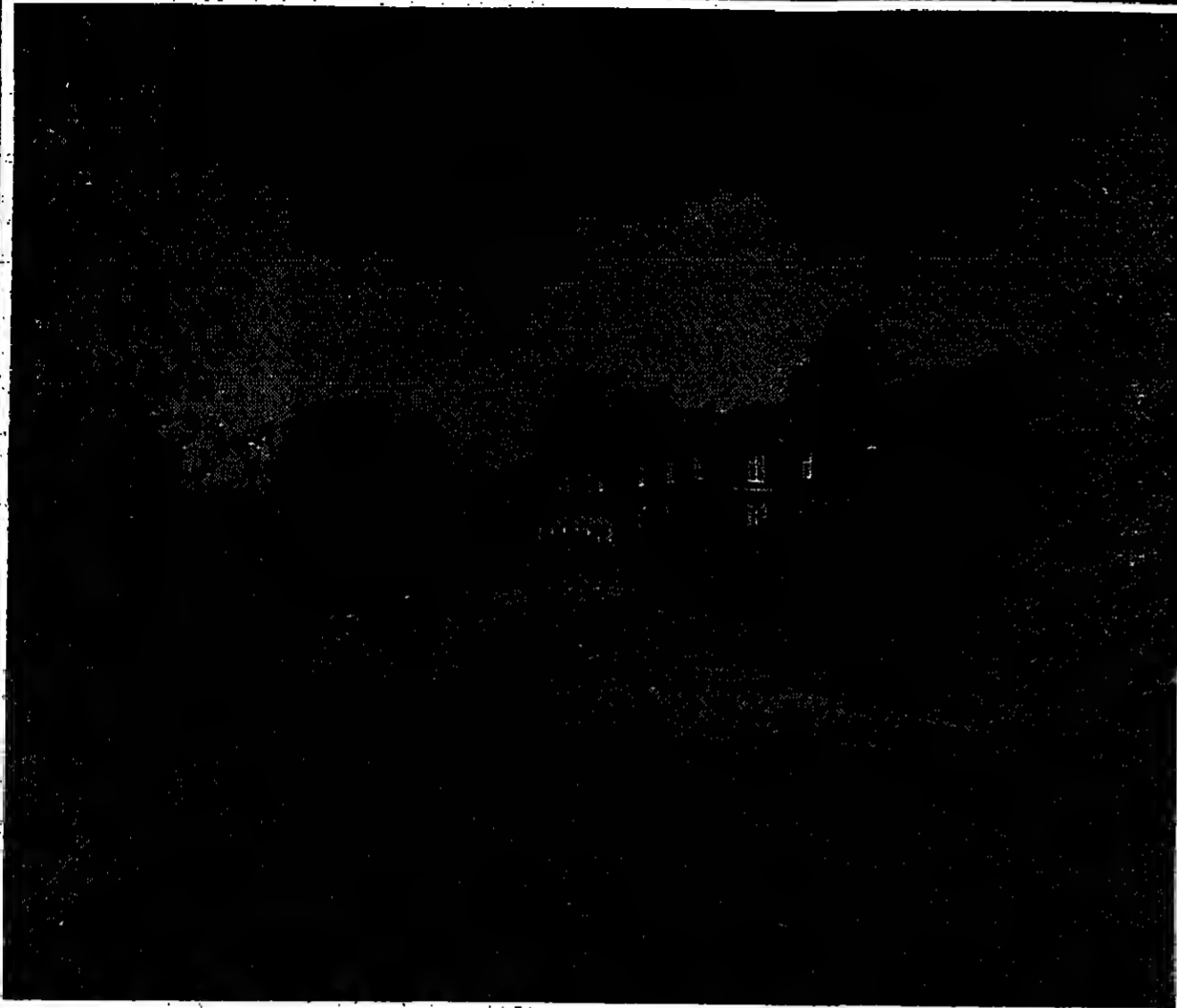
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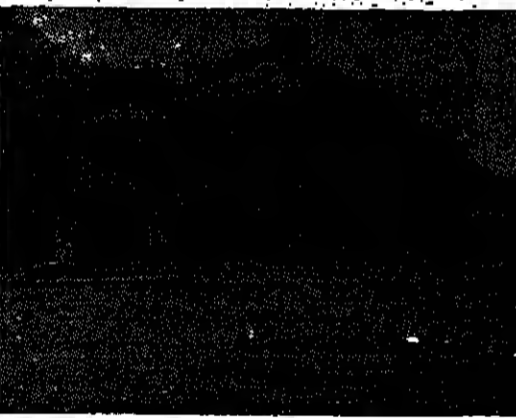
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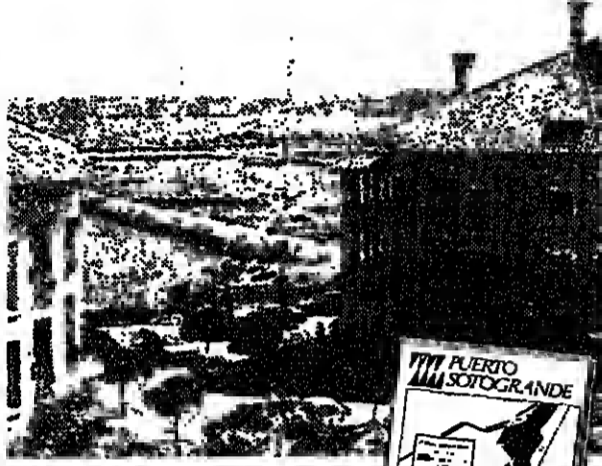
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PROPERTY

# Why Theresa has influence . . .

Audrey Powell takes a look at the impact of women on the property world

**P**ROPERTY IN Italy has long been a field dominated by men. Now, though, women are moving in. Take Borgo Bastia Creti, in Umbria, a group of buildings in farmland overlooking the Tiber valley, 15 miles from Perugia. The borgo (small country estate) dates from 1490. It has 25 acres of private grounds and would have been a summer home for Perugia families.

The main house has now been divided into five two-to-four-bedroom apartments, on two to four floors. A detached building on a lower terrace has been made into a one-bedroom and living room "studio". There are hand-painted tiles, 16th century doors along with the latest in-heat and acoustic insulation.

The units are being offered by Hampsons in London (Tel: 01-493-8222) at from £170,000 to £330,000.

So where is the feminine influence? The developer is a woman, Theresa Delogu, the wife of Gaetano Delogu, music director and conductor of the Denver Symphony orchestra.

This is her second venture. Whole hamlets frequently become vacant in rural Italy, now that their occupants are forsaking them for work in cities. She earlier acquired and restored one of a group of properties in a hamlet to provide a country home for her own family. Friends were impressed and she continued the exercise, using the building team to renovate further properties there for them. She added her own ideas for interior finish.

Hampsons saw the results and are now offering her latest conversions on the open market. There are also six unrestored farmhouses within Bastia Creti. They will be sold, with 2 1/2 acres, from about £75,500 to £173,600. Theresa Delogu can recommend experienced builders and offer her own renovation expertise, to buyers. They will benefit from the estate



The main house at Borgo Bastia Creti, which is being converted into apartments of two to four bedrooms

facilities which will include a tennis court and heated swimming pool. It is envisaged that eventually some 50 to 60 people could be living there and there will be caretaking and letting services and probably a local family providing simple meals.

Next there are the agencies. Italian Country Homes, for instance, in Tunbridge Wells, Kent (Tel: 0892-515611), is run by Nikki Keep, who has had 20 years' association with Italy and lived in Rome for eight of them. She knows at first hand the problems of converting properties there.

While fluent Italian stands her in good stead, also useful is

her past training as an artist, enabling her to sketch buildings which might be difficult to photograph - in narrow streets, or screened by trees.

This firm offers a varied selection of properties in Tuscany and Umbria, and in less often quoted areas such as Liguria and the Veneto. There are apartments in a former monastery overlooking Lake Trasimeno, from £65,000 to £160,000, or the small Castle Lucarelli, in the Siena region - furnished and surrounded by 150 acres of woodland - is £660,000.

In the area of Punta Sabioni, 30 minutes' drive from

Venice's Marco Polo airport, the agency has flats in a new apartment block, "one of the few given planning permission by the Venetian commune, with its strict rules about colours and building styles".

Laying the foundations took four months, with continuous pumping to extract lagoon water. While some of the flats have conventional balconies, others have an "altana", the wooden platform version of the region. They face a central garden with swimming pool and each has garaging for two cars. Prices from £39,000 to £128,000. Another agency is Hello Italy - very much a feminine busi-

ness - offering properties in a lesser known part of Tuscany.

It all started when Helen Allan and her husband were living in Italy. They bought land, had a house built and later bought a mill. Back in Britain they made little use of the properties, so began to let.

British and Italian friends in Tuscany asked if the Allans could fix up holiday lettings for their properties as well. So Lunigiana Holidays came into being, run by the Allans' daughter, Julia, in Italy.

Then people who wanted to buy for themselves, so an estate agency was born. This is run by Helen, in Godalming,

Surrey and another daughter, Lois (hence its name Hello Italy) in Licciana Nardi, Italy. They have about 100 properties on their list - cottages, villas, farmhouses, old mills - from £25,000 to £100,000 and above. All are in what Helen says is a quiet corner of Tuscany that few people know about - where prices are geared to the locals rather than to tourists.

Typical might be a well-renovated old beamed house in the village of Fosdinovo - four bedrooms, each with balcony, living area, dining room, £110,700. Or a converted barn with views to the Apuan Alps, on two levels, with two bedrooms, central heating, furnished, for £44,600. Or a very private house hidden in woods above Pontremoli, three bedrooms, needing modernisation, outhouses used as barns, nearest village about a mile, £21,800.

Details from UK office (Tel: 04898-21218) or Italian office (Tel: 010-39-187-474866).

If you are planning a move to Italy, or just want advice on purchasing there, a woman can help in another way. Living in Italy (Robert Hale, £11.95) by Yve Mizen is as practical a book as you are likely to get. Its second edition is just out. Its author was born in England but spent most of her time living and working abroad before settling in Liguria six years ago. She has been an interpreter/translator and copywriter and is married to an international lawyer.

She enjoys Italy but is not blind to its faults, and her book covers a range of subjects that could all be relevant - the chapter on taxes particularly so: "Get skilled advice about taxes from experts, not friends." If the detailed section on flats (which in Italy must be part of a condominium, with you the absolute owner and co-owner of the common parts) doesn't put you off buying entirely, it should help you to steer clear of pitfalls.

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TRAVEL

**P**ETUNIAS AND pansies were flowering in the window boxes. The weather was short-tempered. It was hard to believe that this was northern Iceland. But it is a surprising country - where else do you find a salmon river running through a capital city and everyone listed in the phone book alphabetically under their first name?

It is a small country a little bigger than Ireland with a population of about 250,000, but its natural wonders are on the grand scale. From Reykjavik in the south west it is easy to get to spectacular waterfalls, volcanic craters, the Great Geyser (the hot spring that gave its name to hot springs everywhere - geyser is an Icelandic word), and the site in a rift valley of the oldest democratic assembly in the world.

But the less-visited north has splendour, too, and Akureyri, on the shores of Eyjafjordur, Iceland's longest fiord, is an excellent base from which to see them. Here are the largest lava fields in the world, the most powerful waterfall in Europe, and milky-grey glacial rivers that flow swiftly through rocky gorges. The moors in late summer are covered with great clumps of brilliant red and yellow heather and pale green moss. At the wide Godafoss waterfall, we picked handfuls of blueberries and sweet whortleberries growing deep in the grass.

At Namaskard, we tread carefully over the muddy sulphur fields where black pools bubbled and belched and steam jets shot out of the boiling springs. In the distance their trails spiralled away in the blue sky, puffing across a brown desert.

The 15-square-mile Lake Myvatn (Lake of Midge) is Iceland's most beautiful and third largest lake, with about 160,000 ducks nesting on it and 50 little rocky islands jutting from its shallow waters. In the surrounding countryside, farmers graze their sheep, grow potatoes, fish for trout, smoke salmon in small grass-covered huts and bake black bread in the open air, with steam from the nearby hot springs. At Dimmuborgir you can walk and easily get lost in almost mythical mazes from which fantastical shapes and black blocks rise in dark twisted forms.

One evening we took a three-hour "Mid-night Sun" tour. The bus left Akureyri at 9pm and we had soon left the town. We passed fox and mink farms, sheep and sturdy Icelandic horses grazing in the fertile



Key beauty: one of the waterfalls that forms part of northern Iceland's grand landscape

## Small country: big scenery

Angela Wigglesworth finds northern Iceland full of surprises

meadows, the mountains dropping in folds to the blue fiord. Across it we could see the slender green island of Hrisey where about 300 people live and ptarmigans nest. There is also a private bird sanctuary that can be visited with the owner's permission.

At Dalvik, a small fishing village, we stopped in a cafe with dark beams and wooden tables and had pancakes and cream, and coffee from large pink pots. Eiders bobbed on the still water and fishing boats lay by the stone harbour wall.

We were climbing now to the Muli, a mountain road that hugs the precipitous cliffs around the Olafsfjordur promontory up to the Arctic Ocean at one of Iceland's most northerly points. Those with vertigo problems changed sides in the bus and looked the other way. But whichever way you look, the view is fairly dramatic:

high rocky boulders poised precariously on the left, a vertical drop to the fiord below on the right.

At 11.30 we were at Olafsfjordur, a town that until 1966 was almost completely isolated during the winter. Here, in this night sunlight, we saw travellers in the harbour, the town's ski-jump, an eight-hole golf course and a main street of single-storey houses with neat lace-curtained windows. Fish, hanging up to dry on wooden rafters, were caught, we were told (with a degree of technicality that escaped me) with the aid of computers. The water was imperceptibly darkening now and the sun, still too bright to look at in a pale blue sky, was touching the snow on the mountains with pink.

At midnight it hung low over the horizon and cast a shimmering path on the water. We could see Grimsey, an

island crossed by the Arctic Circle, about 20 miles away. As we stood and watched, there was a strange silence and the soft grey light of early dawn began to creep over the fiord without there ever having been a night.

It is well worth spending a few days in Akureyri itself. Once a Danish trading centre, it is now an attractive town with tree-lined streets and gardens, a busy harbour, lively shopping centre and the world's most northern golf course, where in the summer you can play all night long by the light of the midnight sun.

The weather, I was told by an Englishwoman who has lived in Akureyri for many years, could be "wonderful" with temperatures sometimes in the 30s, even in May. "Akureyri gets the most sun in Iceland and isn't as cold as other places because we're at the end of this very long fiord," she

said. In fact, weather in Iceland can change rapidly, and there is a saying: "If you don't like it (the weather) wait a minute."

I stayed at the comfortable and centrally-situated Hotel KEA whose manager, Gunnar Karlsson, is also chairman of the local tourist association. Iceland is notoriously expensive, but he claims that "you won't find a cheaper place to eat in Akureyri than our cafe," and I think he is right. It also has very good food. The 70-seater restaurant is more expensive, but again the food is excellent with lobster, salmon, herring, shark and smoked mutton on the menu. Local drinks include the strong Brennivinn, known as Black Death.

More information from Icelandair, 172 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LQ. Companies running Iceland tours include Arctic Experience, Travelscene and Seascope.

## Branson's remote island paradise

Antony Thorncroft on how the rich find privacy

**I**N 1492 Columbus took a look at Necker Island in the British Virgin Islands and quickly passed on to lush lands. Nothing much happened to this tiny 74 acres of Caribbean real estate for the next 500 years until Richard Branson decided to buy a Virgin Island as an accessory to his Virgin record chain.

He chose Necker because it has beaches, the protection of a coral reef, and is a 15-minute launch ride away from Virgin Gorda, one of the two seriously populated spots in this remote scattering of islands on the outer north-eastern ridges of the Caribbean chain, not far from Puerto Rico. He lavished millions on the place, building a spacious Balinese style house into the highest point. And, being a businessman, he is now cashing in on his investment.

For up to an inclusive \$8,250 a day in the high (winter) season you can rent Necker and be exclusive. You need not be alone - the house sleeps 20, and if you can only find time for a few days you can rent for \$5,050 a day. You do not have to fend for yourself: there is a staff to pour the champagne and to boil the lobster, and to take the hassle out of living. It helps to have an interest in water sports because the island provides the perfect location for snorkelling and scuba diving, water skiing and wind surfing, sailing and fishing, and all the gear is provided. Basically, though, Necker aims to offer paradise, and privacy, at a price.

So what is paradise like? Clichematically it is perfect, with temperatures remorselessly into the high 80s, and the rain, which keeps the island pleasantly green, coming in spurts. If you find the sun too relentless, Branson has dotted the island with Indonesian long huts, and by climbing a few stairs you walk into the coolest of breezes, with an ice box constantly packed with everything from champagne to diet cola.

To give nature a push, Branson is smartening up the island with flowers and fruits. There are plans to introduce flamingos. An island which in two weeks defeated photographer Don McCullin and journalist

Andrew Alexander, who chose it for a Crusoe-like survival test 20 years ago, is now a location spot for TV commercials and fashion shoots.

The house is airy and tastefully decorated. The furniture is Balinese, plants abound, the staff are discreet and friendly, the food adapted to your tastes, and the whole environment conducive to sequestered leisure. There are plenty of flash extras, but really Necker is the place to conquer the sea by day and then to lounge, in the kimono provided, in the terrace hammock, watching the sun set, awaiting the gong which will summon you to the trough.

So what is wrong with paradise? That is the obvious reaction to such forced pleasure.

*'These are the last unspoilt islands in the Caribbean'*

Well, it helps to be sociable: some of the bathrooms between the double bedrooms are designed to be shared. There have been connoisseurs who criticised the wine list. Some older guests search in vain for beach furniture, although yards away in clearings there are the very comfortable long huts, replete with loungers. The pathways are scarcely carpeted. And the geckos, the tame lizards that haunt the house and island, have not yet swallowed all the mosquitoes.

The trouble with paradise is that it lasts for ever. In time, Necker would exhaust even the most fanatical sports enthusiast: for the more reflective soul who has flicked through Richard Branson's taste in books, CDs and videos, and is surprised with idleness, there will be an urge to call for the boatman and set about exploring the nearby larger Virgins (the British ones only, of course; the American owned Virgins are basically commercialised ports of call for cruise ships, with the exception of St John, which Laurence Rockefeller

has largely bequeathed as a national park).

The British Virgins are among the last unspoilt islands in the Caribbean, even though most visitors are rich and American and drop in on their yachts. The 11,000 or so inhabitants seem to get good-natured pleasure from the tourists, knowing that their livelihood depends on the profusion of smart marina resorts which are being carefully developed on the best beaches.

Some, such as Little Dix Bay on Virgin Gorda, which charges \$225 a day for a double room and makes Necker look cheap, are as anonymous as any luxury resort in the region, cocooning their guests within its borders of bougainvillea and hibiscus and keeping out the easy going, unsophisticated charm which is the attraction of the Virgins. Others, like Anegada Reef Hotel, on the remote coral island of Anegada, maintain casual beachcombing traditions and serve up conch and turtle, along with the inevitable lobster.

There is not much intellectual stimulation in the British Virgins. The main sites are the wrecks of old ships and the remnants of a 19th century copper mine, but the Government is keen on nature reserves and the scenery, although on the dry side, is decorative. This is escapism pure and simple: the chance to swim through translucent waters along with the fish, to idle and to play in a safety, and with an economy, not guaranteed in all the Caribbean islands.

The British Virgins are 30 minutes by air from Puerto Rico, which is served by British Airways; packages start at just over \$500. More information can be obtained from the BVI Tourist Board, tel: 0279-654969 in the UK. To book Necker, contact Ruth Kemp (01-938-3618).

Prices are lower in the summer: \$3,500 a day for up to ten people before November, and you can arrive by helicopter. Give plenty of advance warning. Paul McCartney, attempting to call in, was chased away by two of the friendliest dogs in the hemisphere.

## Risks and rewards

Christina Lamb flies through northern Pakistan

"IT'S NOT healthy flying so close to mountains," said the pilot. At a height of 12,000 ft, with the mountains towering another 12,000 ft above, I could not help shivering. I was not comforted by the flight plan for the one-hour trip into Pakistan's northern areas. "Follow the river," it declared in bold childlike capitals. Where were all the reassuringly indecipherable latitudinal readings?

The captain, Haimid Azfal, just laughed as he steered the Fokker Friendship through a crevice into the next valley. Only the best pilots fly this, one of the world's most dangerous routes, snaking through the shadows of seven of the world's 10 highest mountains. Weather conditions can change so quickly that between entering and leaving a valley the clouds may have come so low that the plane is trapped. Often the plane has to turn back.

Within a few minutes of a shuddering take-off, we were in a land of ice right years away from the sterile charms of Islamabad. It was really worth the week's wait for clear weather and the small bribe to get a right-hand seat.

Though there are breathtaking peaks in every direction, I wanted to enjoy the spectacle of Mt Nanga Parbat, which is so massive that it took at least 10 minutes to skirt. On the horizon the ranges of the Karakoram Himalayas shimmered in the sun, the greatest concentration of high peaks in the world.

Behind me a fat American lady observed to her check-out attendant that the snow seemed close enough to touch, and was promptly sick in the thoughtfully-provided bag. Hair-raising though the flight is, in 40 years there have only been two accidents - far fewer than on the flight to Peshawar, which has more than once fallen victim to Kalashnikov bullets fired randomly in the air.

The reward for the risk is unforgettable. I challenge anyone to find a more exciting hour's entertainment for only \$250 (\$15 return). Spectacular snowscape after snowscape, each more dazzling than the last, was rolled out before us.

Far below was our guide, the Indus, rushing between Tibet and the Arabian Sea. Patches of green marked inaccessible villages clinging to sheer cliffs in which irrigation channels or kulis had somehow been chiselled.



It was over too quickly and we were heading towards a huge red mountain. "I can't see the airport," said the pilot. Was he crazy? Like a fly about to smash into a glass pane, we were hurtling towards the red mountain which filled every window. At the last moment we dipped to the left through a

narrow crevice, and were landing.

"You were scared, weren't you?" challenged the pilot. "No!" I said, hoping he wouldn't notice my hands shaking as I filled in the foreigners' registration list. In a 1cm square box I was required to write everywhere I had been in Pakistan. I could barely fill in "Islamabad," let alone a year's worth of destinations. Instead I wrote Yes, hoping the police officer was unfamiliar with English.

This seemed a fair gamble in the poorest part of a country with an official literacy rate of 26 per cent. I wondered how an English fisherman and a train driver from Ohio had ended up so far from home, but flicking back through the registration list, it seemed that they were in esteemed company. Princess Diana and Daffy Duck had also been to Gilgit.

After the roller coaster flight, Gilgit was disappointing: caged in by sheer mountains barely flecked with snow. The town is somehow endearing with its sprawling bazaar full of exotic people from nearby China and Afghanistan and its shops overflowing with the most impractical smuggled electronic goods.

Who, in such a poor place as Gilgit, where even a kettle is a luxury, would buy a remote control multi-purpose blender, I asked a shopkeeper.

"Americans," he said smugly.

**DEMAND** IN Britain for winter holidays to Mediterranean resorts seems to be suffering from the same malaise that has depressed demand for short-haul sunshine holidays this summer. Bookings for winter holidays, other than those to ski resorts, are running at a significantly lower level than at the same time last year.

The winter holiday market is much smaller than the summer one - about 2m packages are sold, representing a fifth of the total annual package holiday business - and in the past it has proved pretty recession-proof.

Winter holidaymakers tend, on average, to be older and less affluent by high interest rates and mortgage commitments than those who book summer holidays. This is why tour operators, when launching their winter brochures earlier this summer, were confident that demand would remain healthy this winter even if consumers were less happy with summer tour packages.

"Demand for winter is down," admits Charles Newbold, managing director

## Travel business Malaise over the Med

of Thomson Holidays, the largest tour operator for both the summer and winter markets. "While this has come as a surprise, we are confident that people are only delaying booking rather than deciding not to buy at all."

Others in the travel trade blame the exceptionally sunny summer in Britain for deterring early bookers of winter holidays. But Michael East, a travel consultant with Eastcastle Management,

suggests that short-haul winter holidays could be going out of fashion. "It could be that those who traditionally saw short-haul winter holidays as being different from the mass market of summer packages are now becoming disenchanted with the whole idea of buying a tour to the

Mediterranean in search of winter sun," he says. His argument is backed up by the general buoyancy of long-haul winter bookings to the Caribbean and the US which are seen as more up-market than Mediterranean resorts. Specialist operator Caribbean Connection, for example, has sold over 80 per cent of its Christmas programme, compared with just 40 per cent at the same stage last year.

However, Newbold says: "We will cut back capacity rather than cut prices."

Buying a holiday or retirement home abroad is the dream of many Britons - yet for some the dream has turned into a nightmare. One British couple in their seventies, for

example, have been forced to camp out in a rented flat now that their retirement home on Spain's Costa Blanca is on the brink of sliding into the sea.

Another couple are still living in Britain, having sold their home and business in the UK to buy what turned out to be an unfinished villa on the same Spanish coast.

Last year the Spanish parliament approved legislation allowing for the demolition of unauthorised development near the coastline. All this makes it vitally important that people planning to buy abroad should consider such a move very carefully, warns yesterday's edition of *Holiday Which?* magazine published by the Consumers' Association.

The magazine cites recurring problems such as builders going bankrupt, poor construction, and buyers unaware of outstanding liabilities against properties. "Get expert and genuinely independent legal advice when buying in Spain," it recommends.

David Churchill

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BOOKS

The mind behind Superman

Anthony Curtis on the latest instalment of Michael Holroyd's biography of Shaw

ONCE asked Michael Holroyd how he initially approached the task of writing the life of an author so voluminous and of such active longevity as Shaw. "Well, first of all," he replied, "you set aside 12 years of your life for the task..."

BERNARD SHAW 2: THE PURSUIT OF POWER 1898-1918 by Michael Holroyd Chatto & Windus £18.00, 421 pages

which they go on tours abroad. Although working every day as hard as ever, Shaw is released now from the grind of weekly critical journalism, and able to concentrate his mind on writing plays. These are still a minority taste in a London theatre dominated by the likes of Pinero and Jones...

royd's hugely rewarding and informative biography has a single foundation on which the whole massive edifice rests, it is that the pattern of childhood remained to re-assert itself again and again in the imagination and behaviour of the mature man.



through such major works as Man and Superman, The Doctors' Dilemma, Misalliance, John Bull's Other Island. Whether or not you consider that all these biographical details really work, they remain fascinating.

Shoot-out saga versus minimalist murder

Fiction

BILLY BATHGATE by E. L. Doctorow Macmillan £12.95, 323 pages

FALLING by Colin Thubron Heinemann £10.95, 152 pages

ALL YOU NEED by Elaine Feinstein Hutchinson £11.95, 219 pages

THE GENTLEMAN'S MAFIA by L.M. Shakespeare Macdonald £11.95, 287 pages

PICTURE THIS. You are a New York gangster of the 1930s, and the legendary Dutch Schultz has decided to rub you out. At gunpoint, he forces you onto a tugboat and makes you take off your shoes, prior to receiving a new pair made of wet cement.

revolves around a provincial Hampshire journalist, sent to write a feature on a travelling circus, who falls in love with the show's trapeze artiste and becomes physically obsessed with her.

and if the rhythms of his dialogue sometimes seem too formal or stylised, that is only a minor niggle in an otherwise cool and authoritative work. Elaine Feinstein has recently moved from Cambridge to London, something she has in common with the heroine of her latest novel All You Need.



E.L. Doctorow

Nicholas Best

Oriental industry

JAPAN AND THE NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND by Marie Conte-Helm Athlone Press £18.00, 240 pages

IN JULY an opinion poll for Business Week found that 68 per cent of a sample of Americans thought the Japanese economy a greater threat than the Soviet military.

anese warship to visit the city were welcomed with civic banquets and tickets to the Newcastle-Stoke football match.

NSK, the ballbearing manufacturer. But the big prize was the Nissan car plant in 1984, setting the seal on a new and very different relationship.

Christian Tyler

Real-life Quatermain

THE MIGHTY NIMROD: A LIFE OF FREDERICK COURTNEY SELOUS by Stephen Taylor Collins £17.50, 312 pages

tone's adventures that convinced Selous that his future lay in darkest Africa. And it was there he went in 1871 to make his fortune in pursuit of elephant tusks rather than digging for diamonds and gold.

got along well with the natives, taking, according to Taylor's research, an even more consistent bore him several children, and stayed with him for a decade or more in his early years south of the equator.

In 1890, while in Rhodes' employ, Selous safely led the first wagon train of more than 1,000 settlers, natives and militiamen, another 1,000 cattle and hundreds of horses on a months-long trek up through Bechuanaland, past Bulawayo and to what became known as Fort Salisbury, now Harare.

temporarily waned because of his opposition to the Boer war and his belief that British annexation of the Transvaal would so sour relations that one day all of southern Africa would be lost to the Crown.

Although Selous became friends with Teddy Roosevelt and later hunted with him in East Africa, he became an ardent anti-imperialist. Belonging, however, was not for him and he enlisted, at 65, in 1916 in Col Daniel Driscoll's brigade of frontiersmen sent to battle with the German East African army.

Colin Thubron's Falling is written in a very different idiom: it is minimalist, rather than lush, and there is never any danger of the paragraphs going on too long. The plot

Frank Gray

On the side of Pétain

A QUESTION OF LOYALTIES by Allan Massie Hutchinson £12.95, 360 pages

that they were not placed in an acute moral dilemma. It is Allan Massie's great skill as a novelist that in this multi-layered story he has cast light on many dark aspects of that dilemma, and has managed to show how a man of honour could emerge as the Vichy regime while contending with an inner conflict of loyalties that finally leads to his destruction.

friends, to retrace the stages of his father's career. Lucien, it emerges, is neither hero nor villain. In spite of his adherence to Vichy, he has no illusions about Hitler's New Order - he speaks of the SS in their black uniforms as "a vile parody of the Teutonic Knights of whom I dream" - and his greatest friend, the German Count Rupert von Hillenberg, is brutally executed for his part in the officers' plot against Hitler. Lucien's own vision has been of a very differ-

ent, Christian Europe, but as the war nears its end he abandons hope in what he calls the European idea. One of the cruellest consequences of France's defeat was that it thrust members of the same family into opposing camps. Lucien's brother Armand joins the Free French in London. The bitter legacy of collaboration is brought home to the narrator, Etienne, when he falls in love after the war with a young girl called Frieda (and rarely has the burgeoning of young love been more touchingly described), only to discover that her Jewish mother has died in the camps and that her father, who has always detested the collaborationist Lucien, will never consent to their coming together.

But this brief outline cannot convey the complexity of a work which unfolds and unfolds in time, which brings in historical figures such as Pétain, Laval, de Gaulle, Collette, Drieu la Rochelle and Robert Brasillach, and involves a large cast of characters - husbands, lovers, wives, mistresses, friends and enemies - in an intricate web of passions, rivalries, loyalties and betrayals. Above all Allan Massie's imaginative gift, including a certain unblinking and weary cynicism about motives, seems to me profoundly European; and in that, he recalls an earlier writer, Ford Madox Ford, whose novel The Good Soldier has been described as the best French novel in the English language.

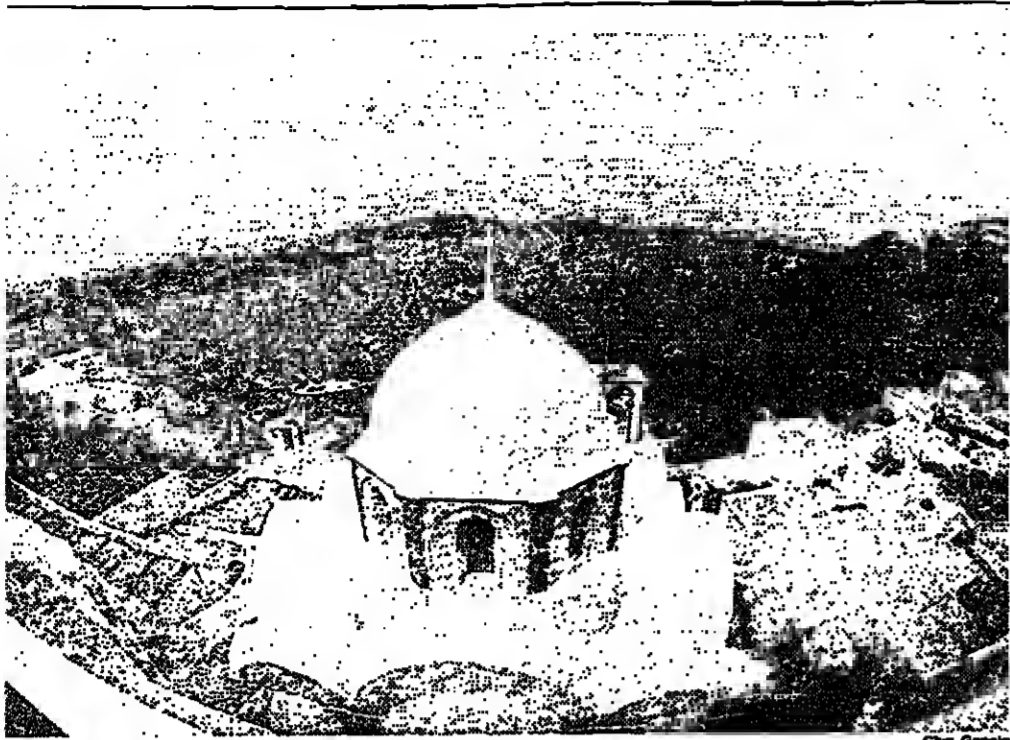
Erik de Mauny

The more you know, the more business you will do. The Cambridge Encyclopedia of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal. Edited by FRANCIS ROBINSON £30.00 520 pp. 0 521 33451 9

CRIME A PERFUNCTORY performance by Detective Superintendent George Rogers in A Time For Dying (Constable £10.95, 186 pages) and also by his creator Jonathan Ross. Murders in the world of drugs. The chief victims not only despicable but, worse, uninteresting. Interlarded with tedious description of Rogers's unappealing sexual appetites, the investigation plods forward at a leaden pace.

THE PRIZE IS GLITTERING THE PRICE IS DEATH. DANIEL EASTERMAN THE NINTH BUDDHA. BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE SEVENTH SANCTUARY. His heartstopping new international thriller of courage, determination and intrigue.

DIVERSIONS



Santorini: the view looking down into the caldera. Volcanic islands smoulder in the background

A theory that could change history

Gerald Cadogan reports from Santorini

MOST DRAMATIC of Greek islands is Santorini (Thera). It blew up around 3,500 years ago. Go by boat and you sail into the caldera (crater) of a mighty volcano. Pumice cliffs tower above you. On top are white-painted towns and villages. In the middle of the caldera two black lava islands are the new volcanic cap that can still erupt again. Warm underfoot, the smell of sulphur and are sinister. This week the old big bang reverberated again round Santorini as 130 archaeologists and scientists met for a once-a-decade conference, invited by Petros Nomikos. It is a unique gathering as it brings together absolutely everybody studying Santorini. Meeting in a restored pink mansion on the cliff edge, we have been looking down into the caldera and arguing about the explosive events in the light of new information about the island and its brilliant civilisation that vanished beneath ash. In this prehistoric Pompeii, the island's wall paintings, preserved by volcanic ash, have been a revelation of how sophisticated very early art in Greece was, while coins and details of daily life still survive. Minoan Crete has nothing so well preserved. Santorini gives the clues to what is missing elsewhere in the Aegean. This week has seen the death of the idea that the eruption of Santorini caused the destruction of the palatial civilisation in Crete. Proposed in 1939 by Spyridon Marinatos, and revived in the 1980s when he started digging beneath the ash, it became a popular theory and was linked to the myth of the lost world of Atlantis - its devotees among the public seemed to be looking for a golden age when people did not do nasty things like make war. Two strands of evidence have now killed it. First, thick volcanic ash has been found on east Aegean islands and even inland in Turkey, 320 kilometres distant. The west wind was blowing when the volcano erupted but some ash went south and reached Crete; the eruption must have been horrific there. Second, some ash did get to east Crete, where it is not in the main Cretean destruction level but underneath it, meaning it is earlier. Excellent evidence for this turned up a few weeks ago at Mochlos, the small island off east Crete. When did Santorini go bang? The accepted date has been 1500 BC. Radiocarbon dates have hinted that it might have been a century earlier but until recently one could argue there were special reasons to doubt them. Now the matter is up in the air - but not lost in smoke - thanks to the study of tree rings. These annual growth marks show that in 1527 BC, precisely, bristlecone pines in California suffered severe frost damage. What caused it? The answer seems to be connected with a volcanic eruption which released dust into the atmosphere, probably in 1528. We know from nuclear explosions that such dust spreads quickly around the world and stays up a long time. It shuts out the sun and the earth is sharply colder. This is called the veil effect. For a few years regular patterns of weather change - as seems to be the case in California. Last year Ireland produced startling confirmation of California's frost damage. In 1528 BC, and for a few years after that, Irish bog oaks barely grew. The annual rings are paltry. The veil had made Ireland rainier than ever. That swamped the roots and stopped growth. Two years ago the ice pack of Greenland produced another surprising bit of evidence - an intense amount of acidity in the snow of 1545 BC (or up to 20 years before or after). The acid in acid snow and rain is sulphuric. The error limit means this may have come from the same 1528 volcano. So did Thera blow in 1528 BC? Yes, said the bog oak expert, Dr Michael Baillie, of Queen's University Belfast, at this week's conference. The weight of evidence demands, in his view, that we tie 1528 to Thera. It is the best working hypothesis, and the proper thing in science is to accept that, until new evidence comes to change it. These against dismiss the ice and tree results as "proxy data." Certainly they point to a volcano, but how do we know it was Santorini? Other volcanoes could have erupted elsewhere in the world, ones we do not know about. Anyway Santorini did not produce enough sulphuric acid to match what Greenland shows, nor was its explosion quite so huge as used to be thought. The general view? A straw poll of the experts here showed the majority undecided. How would it affect history if the bang was in 1528 and not in 1500 BC? It would mean changing the chronology that holds everything together. That would have an immediate impact on the history of culture, art, society and technology. The number of stages and changes would be the same, but they would have to be re-arranged. Santorini's art would blossom sooner, to be followed by a long quiet period, for what most see now as a lively time in the 15th century BC. My view? If the new dating is right I shall have to rewrite much in my book on Crete. Meanwhile, I cannot wait to return to Santorini. Its prehistoric town is a find to rank with Knossos or Tutankhamun. And there is life in its volcano yet.

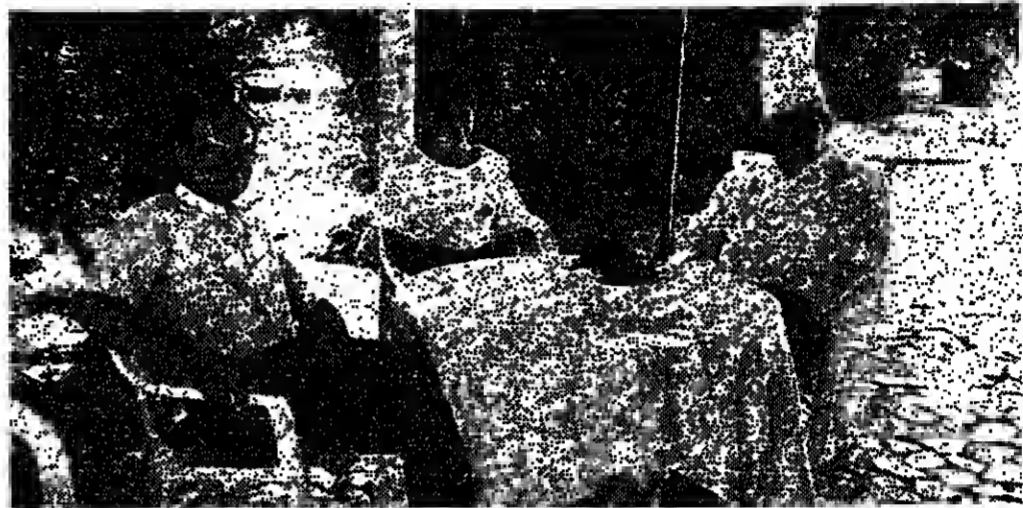
EIGHT YEARS running a busy restaurant with 400 customers a day can leave you jaded and sceptical; not just towards the general public, but also towards your competitors. I learned the hard way. Three days and four good meals in a small, delightfully-run hotel can dispel such thoughts. The hotel I am writing of started with a great advantage; we had no idea what it would be like when we made the booking. No expectations and, therefore, nothing to lose. What convinced me of the extraordinary nature of the family who ran the hotel was not just the quality of the food, the warmth of the welcome and the surroundings, but the hours they worked in a week. I met Jean-Pierre Gonzalez, of Le Relais du Val d'Orbieu, Ornaisons, near Narbonne, in the Languedoc, have enviable energy levels, quick but sincere smiles and are both thin as reeds. This is no reflection on the quality of the food they offer but is a common feature among those who work in the restaurant and hotel trade. As food is so immediately accessible they come almost to ignore it, stopping just to taste a sauce, try a roll of bread as it comes out of the oven or adjust the garnish on a plate en route to the table. Rising fixed overheads are forcing hotels to open for longer and longer throughout the year. M Gonzalez says he took 10 days in February and could not afford to close for longer. Other than Madame Gonzalez, who fills the roles of interior designer, receptionist, head chambermaid and bookkeeper,

Eating Out First, find a French chef

and his daughter, who doubles as chambermaid during school holidays, M Gonzalez's key staff are his gardener, Pierre, and his chef. If he closed for longer than he did, he added, they would quickly be poached by another hotelier. His chef, Jean-Pierre Robert, is worth holding on to. In a recent issue of Gault-Millau, the most au courant guide to French gastronomy, he was awarded 16/20, with the remark that he would feature prominently next year. He is the antithesis of the rising star; aged 52, he has been a chef in the grand hotels on the Cote d'Azur for the past 30. He wants to end his career in a smaller kitchen, and has bought a house close to the hotel for his eventual retirement. Now that he has settled in, the food and its presentation show the marks of a true professional. We should have realised this even before we ate our first meal. As we sat on the terrace on the first very hot evening there was considerable commotion between the drive and what was obviously the back of the kitchen. The temperature inside the kitchen had risen so high that a young commis chef had collapsed. Despite the confusion this caused, as well as the inconvenience of a doctor in the kitchen, the service carried on without a hitch. And the commis chef was back two days later. There is a seasonal menu and two gastronomic menus at FF: 250 and FF: 175. The hotel's proximity to the sea makes its fish dishes particularly appetising; very well executed first courses were a minestrone with shellfish, a salad of langoustines and a wonderfully creamy mousse of salt cod and olives. Main courses included extraordinarily fresh palangre, a local, firm white fish, and en croûte with a olive sauce, and John Dory, as well as a cleverly-cooked duck with melon and spices and an original touch of oxtail and mushrooms. Local cheeses number about 30 and the desserts are to the same high standard. M Robert should

live to a ripe old age. So, too, should M Gonzalez, if only to enjoy some of the wines he is laying down so conscientiously. The son of a vigneron himself, he is now the proprietor of an hotel situated in the heart of the rugged Corbières, and he is visited daily, it would seem, by local wine producers. Once he knew we were interested in wine, choosing became very difficult. Once we gave him our order he told us that someone had come in that morning/afternoon and he had bought a few bottles of their special cuvée and had stood one up for us. In the evening, the number of diners is intelligently limited to about 40 to minimise the strain not only on the kitchen but also on the waiting staff. More importantly, it reflects the attention and quality of service the Gonzalves wish to offer their customers. This is an attitude that seems a longer common and reminds me of those hotels and restaurants so vividly brought to life by Elizabeth David in *An Ormelette and A Glass of Wine* (Penguin, £5.99) when recalling France in the 1950s and 60s. As we return from our holiday, all of us lucky enough to have come across the Gonzalves and their like should raise a glass to their continued, hard-earned survival. Le Relais du Val d'Orbieu, Ornaisons, Narbonne, Tel: 68 27 10 27. Most major credit cards accepted. Rooms, about FF:600 per person, demi-pension. Part of the Relais du Silence, 178 Piccadilly, London, W1QAL, an association of similar hotels throughout Europe.

Nicholas Lander



Jean-Pierre and Agnes Gonzalez with chef Jean-Pierre Robert

CHEESE AND culture are inseparable. A variety of cheeses is a measure of the breadth of culture and philosophy of a country. Spain's cheeses reflect the unknown Spain; the mountain ranges of the north, the islands of the east, the wet Atlantic pastures and the vast arid central plateau. Now is the moment to look at Spanish cheese. Full membership of the European Community has lifted all but a few of the remaining restrictions on importing Spanish food. And Spanish food is bound to become a new fad among small importers. Another factor which will help Spanish cheese, is the fact that the Spanish authorities were among the first to create an *appellation contrôlée* system for their cheeses as early as 1974. The first cheeses to benefit from this protective measure have been Roncal from just below the Pyrenees; Maho-u, from Navarra; Cabrales and Cantabria from the Asturias; Idiazabal, at its strange name implies from the Basque country; Ziehana from the

Food for thought Spanish cheese, please

Picos de Europa and, the most famous of all Spanish cheeses, Manchego from La Mancha. Until now the import of Spanish cheese has been on a small scale in order to supply the Spanish expatriate community. With the *tapas* bar fad, however, interest has picked up in Spanish gastronomy and one or two people are now beginning to interest a wider public in these cheeses. One of these is Monika Lavery, of Brixidia Ltd, who, after reading Spanish at London University, went to live in Spain and returned with a passion for its food, particularly cheese and wine. She imports both. She will be concentrating for the time being on cheese as it will be a few months before the restrictions on meat products are finally lifted. Manchego is the cheddar



of Spain, made from a ewe's milk from the vast arid central plain of Castile. Cheeses made from a mixture of cows' and ewes' milk exist and are called Manchego but they are not considered to be the real thing by people who know their Manchego cheeses. Manchego trucks come at about half the size of a Stilton and they

are aged for anything between five months to a year. In all except the one-year-old cheese the milk is pasteurised. Most of the Lavery brings in both cheese from a big cooperative dairy and from a small artisan cheese maker who cans his cheese in olive oil. I tasted cheeses at five, seven and 12 months. The youngest cheese was the blandest, with a flavour of overcooked mince - well at least I thought so. The tangy ewes' milk flavour was more present in the seven-month cheese. The best was the tangy, 12-monther. A great surprise was the Minorcan cheese, which is made from Friesian cows milk. The story goes that it was created in imitation of cheddar during Britain's brief occupation of the Balearic Island in the 18th century. It certainly doesn't taste like cheddar, being strong and

nubby with a great bite, requiring a wine of "size" such as an old Chateaufort-du-Pape. San Simon from rainy Galicia looks like a smoked shell. It is slightly hawker and very creamy - as you would expect from these ventant pastures. Also from Galicia is the Tetilla which is shaped like a breast. It is a very bland cows' milk cheese which is traditionally consumed with quince paste or *dulce de membrillo*. Neither of the Galician cheeses has the *Denominación de Origen* as yet, nor do Monika Lavery's goats' milk cheeses. The *crema de queso para de cabra* (cream of pure goats' cheese) was anything but mild. Not, I think, a cheese for the faint-hearted. It is clearly the time for us to start exploring the Spanish hinterland. For those with no time for that, Harrods, the London Cheese Centre, in Goudge Street, and Products From Spain in nearby Charlotte Street can provide you with a tempting sampler.

Giles MacDonogh

Claret recovers... just

ALTHOUGH CHRISTIE'S and Sotheby's wine departments had varying fortunes in the 1988-1989 auction year both report favourably on the improved trend in the London salerooms. Christie's total for the UK, including buyers' premium, rose to £6.38m (up 8.6 per cent on the previous year), with a further £2.58 m for sales in Chicago, Geneva, Amsterdam, Tokyo and Bordeaux. However, Sotheby's net turnover of £3.01 m was 16.6 per cent down on the same period. So did Thera blow in 1528 BC? Yes, said the bog oak expert, Dr Michael Baillie, of Queen's University Belfast, at this week's conference. The weight of evidence demands, in his view, that we tie 1528 to Thera. It is the best working hypothesis, and the proper thing in science is to accept that, until new evidence comes to change it. These against dismiss the ice and tree results as "proxy data." Certainly they point to a volcano, but how do we know it was Santorini? Other volcanoes could have erupted elsewhere in the world, ones we do not know about. Anyway Santorini did not produce enough sulphuric acid to match what Greenland shows, nor was its explosion quite so huge as used to be thought. The general view? A straw poll of the experts here showed the majority undecided. How would it affect history if the bang was in 1528 and not in 1500 BC? It would mean changing the chronology that holds everything together. That would have an immediate impact on the history of culture, art, society and technology. The number of stages and changes would be the same, but they would have to be re-arranged. Santorini's art would blossom sooner, to be followed by a long quiet period, for what most see now as a lively time in the 15th century BC. My view? If the new dating is right I shall have to rewrite much in my book on Crete. Meanwhile, I cannot wait to return to Santorini. Its prehistoric town is a find to rank with Knossos or Tutankhamun. And there is life in its volcano yet.



ered but the figures show none of the exuberance that marked the first half of the present decade. For example, between 1981 and 1985, Lafite '61 rose from a top price of £1,090 a dozen to £3,200 and Petrus '61 from £2,360 to £9,500, but neither price has since been reached. Some of the most sought-after second echelon clarets have done better since 1985, with Ducru-Beaucallou rising from £340 to £1,000 and Palmer '61, generally now reckoned on a quality level with the first-growths, from £580 to £2,500, but these are exceptions. For the '70s the first-growths show rather more recovery, though not much movement in the last 12 months, but there has been a distinct falling-off of interest in their '75s - the first vintage of acclaimed fine quality since '71 - and no more than moderate increases in the other classed-growths, except for La Mission-Haut-Brion which in July reached £1,100. The firsts of 1978 (usually accepted as the best vintage of the decade) have generally failed even to double their prices since they first appeared

in the saleroom in 1982. Here too the seconds and Palmer have done rather better. The vintage that first caught the near-frenzied attention of the US market was 1982. The first-growths, that initially in 1983 opened their axe-chateau prices at FF 3040 a case (then £175) had all sharply risen in price by 1985, as the table here shows. Ducru-Beaucallou and Leoville-Las-Cases, that opened ex-cellar at FF 840 a dozen (£72) and at an opening British retail price of about £120, had also more than doubled two years later. The other popular investment wine is vintage port, and

Haut-Brion in 1983. A saleroom battle between a private Norwegian collector and a Bonn wine merchant meant some astonishing prices were paid. After single bottles of 1977, 1988 and 1989 fetched £250, £230 and £310 respectively, magnums of 1921, 1926, 1929 and 1947 made £570, £600, £520 and £780. The sale total was £158,000. Then in December Sotheby's sold a remarkable range of 51 vintages - from 1900 to 1950 - from the celebrated Rioja house of Marrieta. The top price of £380 was paid for a bottle of white 1913. Among rarities, Christie's sold a single bottle of Yquem 1811 (the "cocktail" year) for £15,000 and a half-litre of white Haut-Brion belonging to the Woltner-Dewarvin family after the disposal of the chateau to

Sotheby's sold single bottles of Yquem 1945 and 1946 each for £1,760 and an Imperial (eight bottles) of Latour '61 fetched £3,740. Prospects for the season opening later this month are considered promising. Christie's starts with an unusual sale of a cellar of a Danish castle, with nearly all the wines Danish-bottled. If the rise in the US dollar is maintained this will encourage American intervention. Vintage port prices should improve. Already there is no lack of demand for wines of all types and classes at current prices, but any substantial investment/speculation buying seems highly unlikely.

Edmund Penning-Rowell

CHRISTIE'S The leading international wine auctioneers. Claret & White Bordeaux. Thursday, 14 September at 11 am. A large and varied selection of Claret vintages 1952-85 with many first-growths and good vintages Saucras of nature and younger vintages. Finest & Rarest Wines & Collectors' Pieces. Thursday, 28 September at 11 am & 2.30 pm. The magnificent Ashdon Castle Cellar with over three thousand bottles comprising quantities of classed-growths of the 1920's, mature burgundy, rare Hocks, old port and Madeira. Other stocks include a wide range of vintage port from 1908, claret, fine Burgundy, Rhone, Alsace, Champagne and old Cognac. The highlight of the Collectors' Pieces section will be the Windsor Castle cellarbook for 1873-5. Also a fine range of corkcrests, wine books and wine-related artefacts. For further information about these sales, or our Autumn Programme of sales, please contact Rosie Sharp in the Wine Department. 8 King Street, St James's London SW1Y 6QT Telephone: (01) 839 9060

Table with columns for vintage, wine name, and price per dozen. Includes sections for 'FIRST AND OTHER LEADING CLASSIFIED-GROWTH CLARETS' and 'VINTAGE PORTS'.

PHEASANT SHOOT. Vacancies exist in long established shoot on private estate in Hertfordshire. Shooting 5 days, over 3000 acres, lunch provided. Full and part time. Please contact: Estate office, Woodhall Park, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. Tel: 0920 20226.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE. MARE ST LONDON E8 4SA (Charity Ref. No. 231322). Since 1905 we have shared the grief and eased the pain of countless suffering souls. Last year alone 900 found peace with the help of our vital gifts. Most of them died of cancer - but so severely that you would hardly know. Your concern is as encouraging as your generosity and we thank you for your inspiring trust. Sister Superior.

"It was then I realised my playing days were over." After a life in which perfection was the aim, imagine the heart-stopping moment when a musician realises all is not well. A note not quite reached, a passage they knew backwards but now can't quite manage. These are the signs that a musician has come to the end of a life giving pleasure to others. But you can help. Just as musicians have bestowed their gifts on us we can give something back to them. A donation to the Musicians' Benevolent Fund could help them come to terms with their loss. Even better, remember the Fund in your Will. In that way your love of music can live on for others to enjoy. PLEASE SEND A DONATION, LARGE OR SMALL, TO: MUSICIANS' BENEVOLENT FUND, SIR IAN HUNTER, CHAIRMAN, 16 OGLE STREET, LONDON W1P 7LG.

HOW TO SPEND IT

Shaker furniture, home-made stock, picnic rugs and fashion jewellery are just some of Lucia van der Post's shopping choices this week

Nostalgia rules at a 21st birthday party

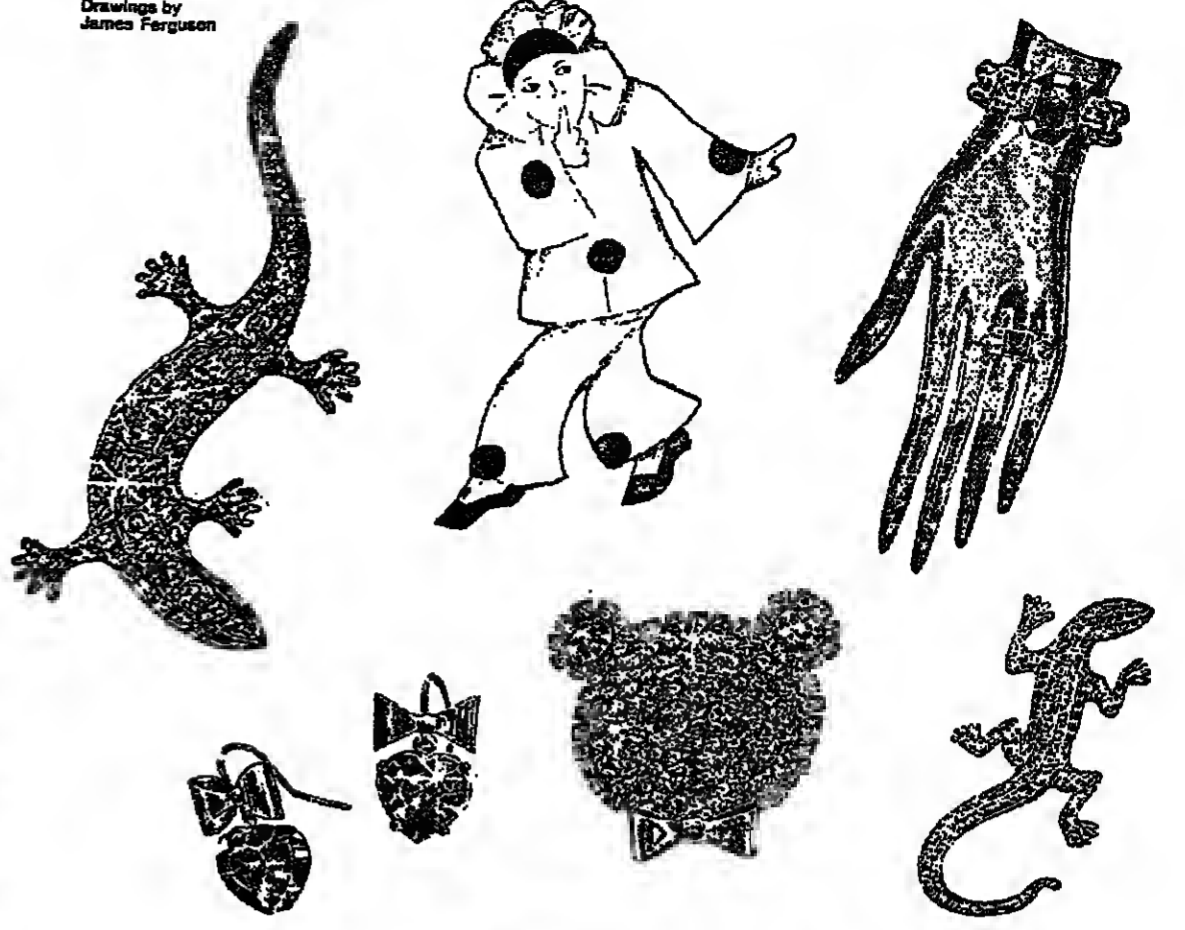
TWENTY-ONE-YEAR-old seems a little young to be honoured with a retrospective that looks nostalgically back at all your works...

It is worn by film stars and royalty, by Sloane Rangers and middle-aged mothers. All they have in common is a liking for the Butler & Wilson combination of wit, style and glamour.

In three weeks. After Caroline Baker, then fashion editor of Nova, photographed a whole group of our bug brooches we were inundated. We then found that in order to keep up with demand we had to start designing and making ourselves...

Butler & Wilson shops are to be found at 189 Fulham Road, London, SW3; 20 South Molton Street, London, W1; Princes Square, Glasgow and Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles. There are also specialist Butler & Wilson shops inside Harrods and Selfridges.

Drawings by James Ferguson



Time to stock up

HOW MANY times have you started to tackle a recipe and then found that the thing it really needs is a perfectly wonderful home-made stock? Good stock, flavoured and properly reduced, is the foundation of classic sauces, of proper soups and of many a fine dish...

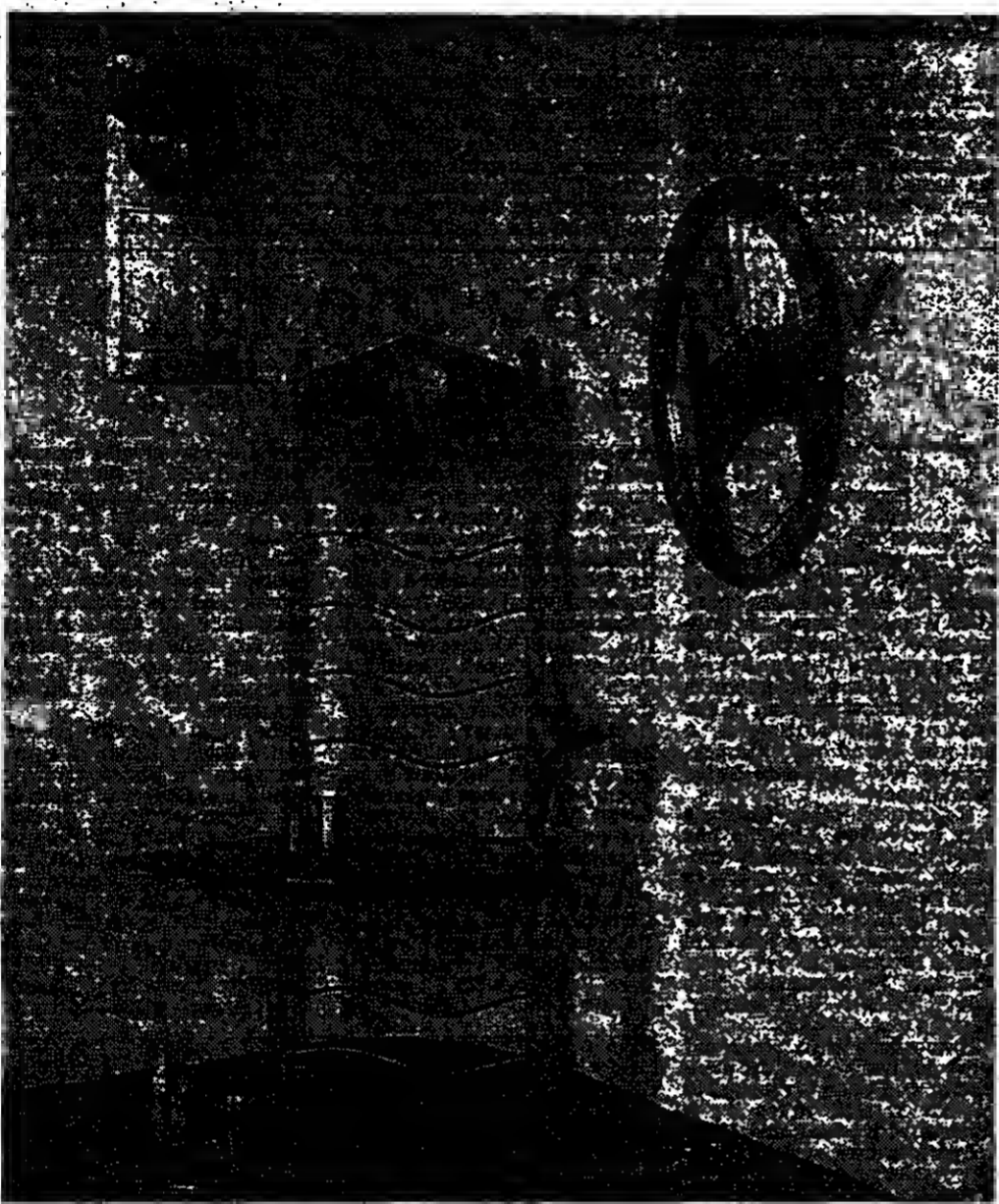
If you long to make soups and sauces the proper way but don't have the time or energy to make the stock, help is at hand. Fonds de Cuisine is a new company founded specifically to sell to the public the kind of sauces that chefs insist on. All are made the traditional way, using natural ingredients, and are guaranteed to have no artificial additives or preservatives...

The stocks were developed by David Chambers, Chef de Cuisine, Le Meridien hotel Piccadilly, London, W1, and they are a marvellous improvement on standard stock cubes and gravy granules.

To begin with six stocks will be on sale - chicken, beef, lamb, fish, vegetable and veal (the proper, slightly reduced jus de veau which is the basis of a classic chasseur sauce and which can now be made in something like five minutes).

The beef, chicken and lamb will sell at about 99p for 1/2 pint, 55p for 5 oz while the fish and vegetable stocks will be about £1.15 for 1/2 pint and 60p for 5 oz. The jus de veau - remember it is extremely concentrated - sells at about £1.25 for 4 oz. They are going into Safeway, Tesco and Sainsbury's early next month.

Quite different but infinitely delicious are Mrs Pringle's amazing apple confections to be found at Harrods only. Each apple is surrounded by a delectable concoction of caramel, chocolate and various kinds of nut. Each one is hand-dipped and Harrods is happy to take special orders. At £15 a go they are not cheap but they are special.



LISA VANDY is a young designer/maker who has a strong handwriting all her own. She works in silver, copper and pewter, and is very fond of verdigris. She does a lot of work to special commission (she has just finished co-designing a new shop in the Tottenham Court Road called Soul 11 Soul, as well as all the accessories for soul singer Terence Trent D'Arby's world tour) but also has a range of artefacts that she produces in batches.

Among the smaller items are candlesticks of silver on copper with colling which cost £26 for one and £76 a pair. The goblets are also silver on copper with a satin finish on the inside; they sell at £40 each or £150 for a set of four. Her alphabet clock is made of engraved copper spinning with engraved sheet copper and verdigris letters and hands. It sells for £280.

Later in the year Lisa Vandy will be having an exhibition of her work at American Retro at 35 Old Compton Street, London, W1. Until then you can buy and see her work at her workshop at 12 Greenleaf Street, Camden, London, NW1 0ND. Telephone first for an appointment: 01 482-1893.

Simple Shaker style and spirit

REGULAR READERS of How To Spend It will be familiar with Shaker furniture. I have long had a fondness for it and whenever I find it I tend to draw it to readers' attention. Those who, like me, have long been a fan of its simple shape, its fine quality, its purity of line will be delighted to know that a shop devoted to Shaker furniture and artefacts is opening in London this week.

The Shakers, The United Society of Believers, you will remember, are a deeply religious sect, a breakaway movement from the English Quakers who flourished in New England in the 18th and 19th centuries. They made everything they needed, guided by

chusetts which enables them to distribute its furniture and artefacts, all made in the true Shaker style and spirit. The range is excitingly large - there are those wonderfully simple slat-back chairs, the classic drop-leaf and trestle tables, the slat-back rocking chair, arched benches, a weaver's chair, hanging shelves and the famous peg rails which were an integral part of Shaker architecture and on which they hung mirrors, clothing, shelves, kitchen utensils and even chairs. Smaller things, such as clothes hangers and those marvellously satisfying oval boxes, are equally beautifully-made and desirable.

Quite a lot of the furniture can be bought in kit form, which of course makes it cheaper - for instance, a straight chair that costs £169 complete would cost £94 in kit form. There is a mail order catalogue available from the shop for which they charge £1.50, though the sum is refundable on your first purchase. The catalogue not only gives the prices, it also illustrates all the pieces. Rocking chairs vary between £299 and £325, the 6 ft drop-leaf table is £675, clothes hangers are £10.95, the hanging shelves are £115.



The Shaker clock is £225

the principles of Mother Ann who asked them to "do all your work as though you had 1,000 years to live, and as though you were going to die tomorrow." They made nothing that wasn't useful, but they also believed that everything that was useful could also be beautiful. Thomas Morton, an early admirer of the Shakers, thought the peculiar grace of Shaker chairs could be attributed to the maker's belief that "an angel might come and sit on it."

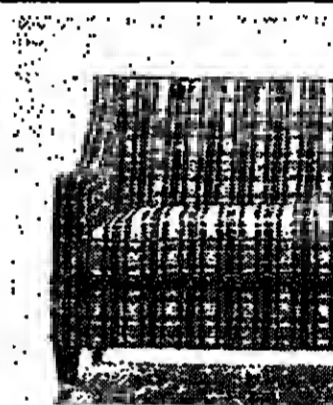


Nest of boxes from £15.65



Shaker sewing table £215

The small Shaker community that still remains at Sabbathday Lake is still famous for its herb and tea production and The Shaker Shop will be selling a big range of herbs and teas - things such as catnip, dandelion, horehound and lavender tea as well as some unusual vinegars. The shop is at 27, Harcourt Street, London, W1. Tel: 01-734-7672.

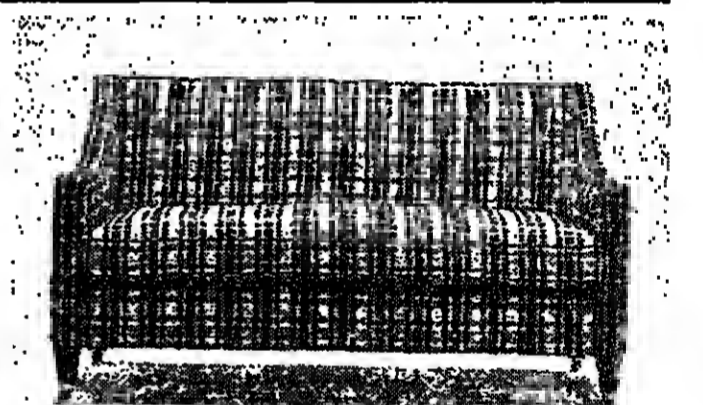


KINGCOME SOFAS have become one of the dependable names in the world of sofas. They may not be cheap but they do make sofas of comfort and quality and they are always innovative in thinking up new solutions to seating problems. Newest in their line is the Kingcome small sofa, carefully thought-out to fit into those places where something decorative to look at and comfortable to sit on would be welcome but where most normal sofas wouldn't fit. It would look good in a

Picnic in perfect comfort

IF THE Indian summer keeps up and you are still in the mood to go picnicking (and what could be nicer than to combine eating out of doors with a little autumnal black-berrying?) then you might like to know about Countrygroves picnic rugs.

In splendidly rich Scottish tweeds (Scottish-gard-treated) they come leather-bound for sturdiness and with handy leather carrying handles. £55 from Countrygroves, Stable Cottage, East Coker, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 9HS (Tel: 0935-863121). For those who prefer something softer to sit on there are tweed-covered cushions - again they come with long straps for easy carrying and would make picnicking an infinitely comfortable event. £69 each.



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LORD SPARE US from Brussels sprouts just yet. The sight of them in the supermarket, bagged in 1 lb nets, pathetically trapped like butterflies, brought a shiver of unseasonal chill to my heart. Who grows them for sale at this time of year and who wants to buy them? Some may be eager to taste the first fruits of summer before spring has fully sprung, but does anyone really want to turn the clock forward to winter any sooner than necessary?

Cotton-frocked shoppers seemed startled by the sight of the sprouts. They winced, then turned their backs on them. "Steak and kidney pudding with sprouts tonight? Not likely," said one jolly shopper. "They'll be offering us parsnips next," replied her friend, and they busied themselves with stuffing their trolleys with produce in tune with the season. They snapped up courgettes eagerly and jostled over tomatoes ripened by a decent dose of sun. Good sense, and glorious summer gluts won the day - quite rightly.

Cookery Out, out damned sprout



minutes the tomatoes should be hot and cooked through under a crisp pale golden crust. TOMATO JELLY WITH PRAWNS (serves 6) Richly-flavoured, ripe tomatoes and spicy basil combine to give this elegant appetiser its very savoury appeal. Prawns provide a finishing touch, making a lovely party dish. Ingredients: 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 lb tomatoes; fresh basil, garlic and bay leaves; concentrated tomato puree; gelatine powder; 1/2 lb or more cooked prawns (peeled weight); lemon juice and olive oil.

tomatoes and whizz until smooth. Bring the pink puree very slowly to simmering point. Simmer for 2 to 3 minutes only then cover tightly and set aside for 1 1/2 hours. Strain the liquid through a fine sieve. There should be 1/2 pint or just over. Stir in 1 slightly-heaped tablespoon of tomato paste dissolved in 1 tablespoon boiling water and top up with cold water to make a scant 1 pint of liquid in total. Dissolve 1 tablespoon gelatine powder in a little of the savoury tomato liquid. Cool briefly then blend it into the rest of the liquid. Check seasoning and add salt, pepper, lemon juice, and maybe a pinch of sugar, as necessary, to achieve an intensely fresh and savoury tomato flavour.

Serve with oatcakes or warm sesame seed crackers. 'SUN-DRIED' TOMATOES If you are suffering from a surfeit of tomatoes you might like to try this fashionable way of preserving them. The recipe comes from Stephanie's Feasts & Stories by the remarkable Australian chef Stephanie Alexander. Ingredients: 4 lb ripe plum tomatoes; salt; olive oil; fresh basil, rosemary or tarragon; whole peeled garlic cloves (optional). Method: Heat the oven to 140 F/60 C. Cut the tomatoes in half lengthwise. Scoop out the seeds. Sprinkle the cut sides with salt. Arrange the toma-

atoes, cut side up, on the oven shelves. If the spaces are too wide, place stainless steel or other non-ferrous cake racks over the oven racks and place the tomatoes on these. Dry in the oven with the door propped open slightly until the tomatoes are leathery but not hard, about 12 hours. No liquid should ooze out if you cut one piece in half. Never try to hurry the process. The dried tomatoes can be eaten as a snack, quite plain, or stored in the Italian manner: Fill sterilised jars with dried tomatoes, layering them with sprigs of the chosen herb, and the garlic cloves if you are using them. Cover completely with olive oil, pressing down hard on the tomatoes to allow any trapped air to escape. Store, tightly covered, in a cool cupboard. Allow four weeks for the flavours to develop. Philippa Davenport

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## ARTS

# The Cheshire Cat of modern art

William Packer on Andy Warhol

OF ALL the American artists of the 1950s and 1960s, for whose genius the most extravagant claims are still occasionally made, Andy Warhol is perhaps the most intriguing. That is not to say that over the years his reputation, too, has not moderated somewhat, but while others have faded almost entirely away, in his case at least the grin remains, teasing as ever. He is the Cheshire Cat of modern art.

It is hard to remember a time when he was not a name. The Tate's big survey of 1984, *The Painting & Sculpture of a Decade 54-64* ignored him, yet by 1971 he was worth the full retrospective treatment. Simple and obvious as it seemed, once established, his work could be neither ignored nor forgotten. "If you want to know all about Andy Warhol," he once said, "just look at the surface of my paintings and films and me, and there I am. There's nothing behind it." But of course there was and is. One should never take an ironist at his word, and beneath that deliberately bland and deceptive surface Warhol was many things: pop-artist, conceptualist, minimalist, journalist, director, film-maker and, yes, ironist.

Two years on from his sudden death at the age of 58, two major exhibitions and several sideshows offer London something of a Warhol festival. The largest show, *Andy Warhol: A Retrospective* (until November 5), sponsored by British Petroleum, comes to the Hayward Gallery as a condensed version of that already shown at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. It is none the worse for that, well chosen and handsomely installed, but with a starting point now set effectively at 1960 it does make the show at the Serpentine Gallery, *Success is a Job in New York* (until October 1; sponsored by West Industries), which comes from the Grey Art Gallery of New York University, an indispensable prologue.

Glossed as "the early art and business of Andy Warhol," it covers his career, first as a student at the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh in the late 1940s, and subsequently throughout the 1950s as a graphic designer and illustrator in New York. It is a revelation: lip service has been paid often enough to the nature of Warhol's professional activities in this period, but never to their range and quality. Even the New York version of *A Retrospective*, it seems from the catalogue,

skipped through it, rather, concentrating on such things as the shoes drawings and the use of gold leaf as a ground, that may be thought validated retrospectively by so much of the later work.

The truth is quite the reverse, and it is Warhol the young designer and illustrator who, without in the least vitiating his later work, qualifies and determines Warhol the painter. Indeed, for being rendered so much clearer in its imaginative provenance, and thus less arbitrary, so much of that later work becomes so much the more impressive. It is not that Warhol's early graphic work is especially original, nor would one expect it in a profession that takes originality as a hut quality of freshness of vision. We find him working very much in the spirit of the time, looking especially to such illustrators as Steuben and Ben Shahn, but sharply selective and always bringing his own distinctive visual wit to bear. The touch is light and deft, the result frequently delightful and funny.

But we also find him re-living not just the imagery of style and fashion but also the techniques that will later surface in him. Already, by the mid-fifties, he is master of block



At the Hayward Gallery retrospective: Turquoise Marilyn, 1962

and screen-print and is exploiting their various applications. He takes prints from his drawings before the ink is dry, uses rubber stamps, and plays with images that are out of register or repeatedly overlaid: works upon mixed-media surfaces of

all kinds. The work is confident, knowing and entirely professional, and by the end of the 1950s had won him some considerable standing within the loose art world freemasonry of New York - Success indeed.

And then, sometime around 1960, from using the occasional canvas in a window display, he began to make serious art. A substantial group of these transitional works, taking their imagery from small-ads, cartoons and the simplified con-

sumer imagery of mass advertising, forms the opening section of the Hayward show. It is the crucial passage, for here he is casting about to find the touch that had served him so well on paper and the printed page, but as yet failed him on canvas. The problem was not a quality of line and surface that would read with the same economical authority across these larger surfaces as they had in the graphic work.

It is nice irony that he should solve his problem as a painter by reappropriating to himself the familiar technique of the screen-print, employed on the largest scale. The screen quite simply became the brush by which he could work as flexibly and as simply as he chose, and achieve at once the bland impersonality and immediate impact of the printed image. It was all so simple, and from the soup cans and coke bottles to the Marilyn and Liz Taylors, the Elvises, Jackies and Maos, the electric chairs and the numberless increasingly conventional portraits, is an obvious and simple progression.

But is it so simple? Perhaps towards the end the ironist might have seen that the process of repetition had become had always said it was, but to see again those early iconic portraits of Liz and Marilyn is to be struck by their force and singularity. There is just the surface and the familiar face annotated and simplified by Warhol's creative graphic confidence. And there is the insistent repetition to drain off all meaning, as though it were a visual mantra. And still we are transfixed. The grin remains.

## Radio World War overkill

"IT'S STRANGE," Sue Lawley said, interviewing Dame Vera Lynn for *Desert Island Discs*, "that we should have this nostalgia for war." Yet Dame Vera would have liked a little more. It seemed, despite her general good nature, Nostalgia is not in my bag. I was in the Army throughout the war, a Territorial before it began. I enjoyed it much, but I don't need to recall it all because of a 60-year chance of time. This week's BBC Radio had over a dozen war-connected items (and as for television). I hope I may be forgiven if I do not write with enthusiasm about this anniversary of the outbreak of World War 2.

A pleasant by-product of the matter, at any rate - as "by-product" as you could imagine - was the memory of the 1939 theatre. Radio 4 gave us *The Case of Green* on Sunday and *Dear Octopus* on Monday. The Emlyn Williams piece is often revived (his production dates from 1985), but the other is played less than it deserves. It was great to hear octogenarian Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies and Robert Harris celebrating their golden wedding in this 1973 production of *Dodie Smith's* play, with Martin Jarvis in the part John Gielgud played in 1939.

Naturally on Sunday we had Neville Chamberlain declaring war from Downing Street. In the evening, a repeat of last week's talk on how the war had changed our lives, by Frank Gillard, once Managing Director of BBC Radio; and a discussion by women united by the war, which I am afraid I did not hear. On Radio 3, the Prom interval was occupied with a history of the Proms in wartime, complete with the voice of Henry J. Wood.

On Monday, *Staying under Hitler* (Radio 4) gave the reactions of Dr Hans Law Robertson, who studied in Germany from 1930 to 1936, and saw what was in store. This was interesting, but less so than Saturday's *The German Renaissance* (Radio 4 FM only, a series of six), which gave the reactions of young Germans living there at the same period. They didn't see what was in store, and some were convinced until 1945 that the Fuhrer was a "semi-god". But not after.

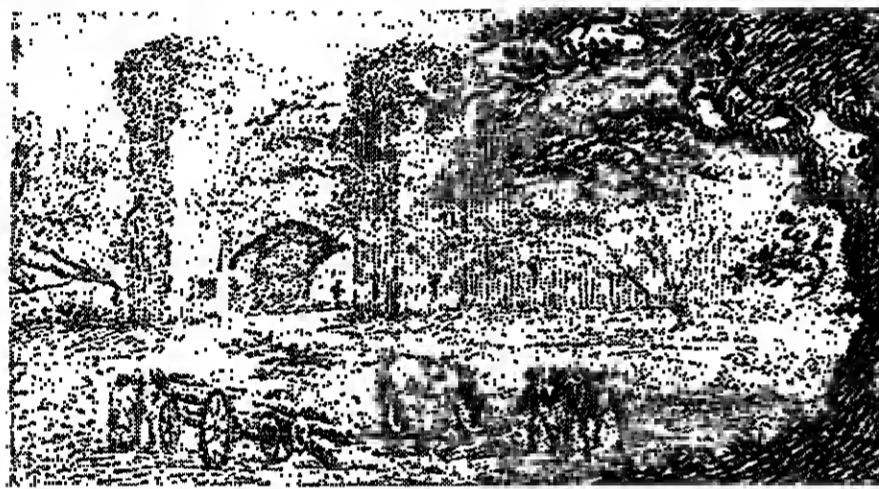
On Tuesday an eight-part series began on Radio 4, *The Road to War*, a nation-by-nation investigation into the war's origins, a companion to what you might have seen earlier in the evening on television, with the same writer and narrator, Charles Wheeler. (This almost takes us up to Remembrance Sunday.) On Thursday, *First Person at War*, a six-part series which this week dealt with a 13-year-old German girl's flight from Nazi Germany. How right, as usual, Sue Lawley was.

For those who felt like a change of war, even if not a change of subject, Radio 4's Monday play *Boudicca's Victory*, by Jean Binnie. Here was the fighting between the Romans and the allied tribes under Queen Boudicca of the Iceni, alias Boadicea; but the battles were engulfed in a space of counterplots. To start with, the story was presented as if played by a village hall company in a village hall, who had to extemporise all their effects.

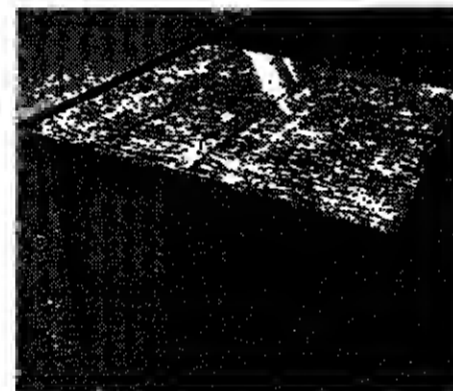
Boudicca has a rival claimant to the chieftainship of the Iceni, who works against her when he can. And she has a secret lover and two daughters, one of whom also has a secret lover, a Roman. Postscript: These must be the same Romans that got the National Theatre into such trouble, and we hear of their activities in revoltingly vivid detail.

Suetonius, not the historian but the Roman commander, is ultimately recalled to Rome, in spite of having killed so many British and made their Queen poison herself. Hence the title *Boudicca's Victory*, which means that, as Suetonius realises, Britain can never be a profitable Roman colony. But there is more to it than that. Alive or dead, Boudicca was the greatest feminist ever until Elizabeth I, and Jean Binnie goes along with her.

B.A. Young



The tiny ink drawing (top left) "bought" for £90 from Sebastian D'Orsay Ltd, 39 Theobalds Road, W.C1. Below it, the BC Roman urn, £150 from Faustus Fine Art; bottom left, the Italian 18th century writing table (£5200) and the Swedish card table made from birch figured like a tiger skin (£1200), both from the Fair



## Furniture with a country feeling

Robin Duthy finds some good buys at the London Antique Dealers Fair at the Cafe Royal. His purchases are on paper only

A CHOICE of three hundred kinds of picture-frame is available at Sebastian D'Orsay Ltd, 39 Theobalds Road, W.C1, ranging from simple gilt to hand-made walnut, maple and oak-veneered frames. Over the last five years, the shop has dealt more and more in English drawings and watercolours.

Two floors of well-chosen works are on sale, mainly in the £100 - £500 range, and I "bought" there for £90 a tiny (4x3in) ink drawing done in about 1830 of waggons loading tree-trunks outside Berry Pomeroy Castle in Devon. The drawing came unattributed, though the style is close to that of Thomas Bewick whose vignettes of rural England have more charm and humour

than the publications of *Birds and Quadrupeds* for which he is better known. Some of Bewick's preparatory drawings were done in ink, though of course his great skill was in wood-engraving for which he developed a "white-line" technique. Whether by Bewick or not, the timeless, pastoral quality of the scene is well caught. The English water-colour market to which this picture belongs marked time last year after averaging a 15 per cent rate of climb since 1976. Within that sector though, the understated early 19th century drawings are still rising more slowly than later more decorative work.

This week's London Antique Dealers Fair, now in its twelfth

year at the Cafe Royal, Regent Street, W1, is open until 6 pm on Sunday. Plenty of worthy English furniture is on offer and a sprinkling of French, Italian and Scandinavian. It is partly overfamiliarity with French and English furniture that drives me towards Scandinavian, Italian and other less famous styles, and partly because it's better value. American buyers have traditionally bought and driven up the prices of French, English and of course their own furniture, while ignoring the rest.

Here I "bought" for £290 from Anderwyls Ltd, a dealer who trades only at fairs, a North Italian writing-table probably made near Turin about 1790. It has a distinctly country feel; the inlay is less than perfect - more human, you might say, than the astonishing virtuoso marquetry work done in France. Luckily, I prefer the work of fallible craftsmen to the mechanical perfection of a top French ebeneiste, since a comparable bureau plat by one of these could cost £1000.

To the fastidious collector, there's a lot wrong with my Piedmontese table - a clumsy repair at one edge, back legs now a little warped, and not a few worm-holes. Yet the various fruitwood inlays of pear, apple, and walnut produce what seems like a complete and self-sufficient spectrum of browns, giving it a mellow and solid character.

Three Danish dealers had come to the Fair with a refreshing cargo of bright and airy Scandinavian furniture. Here is a sector that will surely follow the rapid climb of Scandinavian painting. After pine, the silver birch was most commonly used in Swedish furniture. The different climates and soils produce a glorious range of colours from a brilliant silky white to chocolate brown. From Soelberg of Copenhagen I "bought" for £200 a Swedish card-table of about 1820, made from birch

that was figured like a tiger skin, having grown probably in a cold, isolated and watery site.

Thence to Faustus Fine Art, the antiques dealers at 80 Jermyn Street, W1 where, on entering, the resident border-collie shot past me in pursuit of a rubber bone. It narrowly missed a stand with a first-century BC Roman red "terra sigillata" krater, which I "bought" for £150 while the going was good. The price reflected its near-perfect condition as well as its wonderfully satisfying shape, colour and texture.

Pliny inferred that these mould-made pottery vessels were the down-market version of the original silver examples, and in *From Silver to Ceramics*, Michael Vickers of the Ashmolean in Oxford has shown the silver originals alongside their ceramic followers. Whatever market they were made for, the high iron oxide content of the clay gave them a deep, redish-orange colour, though in this case there is a bluish-black area too, resulting from a later fire. The frieze of garlanded flowers is strongly modelled and the form is distinctively Roman, not derived from any Greek or Egyptian model.

The British who buy antiquities are said to do so rather as if they were collecting stamps; they like mint condition and one vessel of each known form. Continental, and even American collectors are motivated more by aesthetics, and will therefore buy damaged pieces and even a fragment that shows part of a beautiful form.

Ancient Roman ceramics are undervalued partly because they have to compete with the easily identifiable and allegedly unsurpassed work of the Chinese potter. Yet if the same basic qualities of colour, form, texture, patina - and lustrance in the case of buried pieces - are weighed up, many will agree that Roman ceramics are rare and aesthetically better value than comparable Chinese material which can be bought by the cartload.

## Music by the lake

Andrew Clark on the Lucerne Festival

FOR MOST festivals, the setting is as important as the concert. On that score, Lucerne is richly endowed. By day, you can sail on the lake's 80-year-old paddle steamers, climb the Rigi by steam train, visit Wagner's house at Tribsechen or explore the city's immaculately preserved churches, where the festival's choral concerts resound in the evening. The setting is a unique blend of history, scenery and up-to-date Swiss convenience.

But where other festivals wax and wane, Lucerne has maintained a remarkably consistent record of development over its 50 year of existence. It began in 1939 with a few concerts centred around Toscanini and Ansermet. It developed through personalities like Edwin Fischer, Furtwangler, Karajan and Kubelik.

It now lasts three weeks and runs to more than 40 symphony and chamber concerts - but it still relies on a nucleus of international musical personalities, such as Vladimir Ashkenazy, Daniel Barenboim and Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, who return year after year. Fortunately, Lucerne has never allowed any individual to dominate nor become subservient to the less savoury elements of the music business.

How does Lucerne do it? Tradition develops a certain momentum and the stability of the Swiss franc undoubtedly counts. But the festival's financial independence also plays a crucial role. It receives only five per cent of its SF4.5m (£1.7m) budget in state subsidy. Around 75 per cent comes from the box-office, which means prices of up to SF140 (£52) for a good seat at this year's concerts by the Berlin Philharmonic and Chicago Symphony. Nearly 20 per cent of income comes from the festival's own 250-member sponsoring society, an exclusive club for Switzerland's richest culture lovers, who pay handsomely for priority booking.

Given this reliance on the paying public, it is remarkable that the programmes aren't more conservative. To widen its impact, the festival has begun giving concerts of new music and this year a special low-price symphony concert was laid on to attract the locals and tourists who might otherwise shy away from the well-heeled atmosphere. And you could still hear Follini's electrifying account of the Schumann concerto at a Sunday morning concert for less than £7.

Lucerne is now looking to the future with plans for a new SF60m (£23m) concert hall complex to replace the cramped, boxy Kunsthaus. An architectural competition is under way and the city and cantonal authorities have given their backing. Half the cost will have to come from private resources.

If the festival's impeccable day-to-day organisation is anything to judge by, it is a safe bet that Lucerne will have its new lake-side hall by the year 2000.

Unlike Edinburgh and Salzburg, two of the other big international festivals where music plays a major part, almost all the programmes at Lucerne show an awareness of thematic context. The festival

this year focussed on Russian music, with particular emphasis on the Musorgsky-Shostakovich axis. Edison Denisov gave a composition class, the Hilliard Ensemble and the Tallis Scholars introduced East European vocal music from the Renaissance to Arvo Part, and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra played Shnitke's Fifth Symphony. This evening, the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra under Gennady Rozhdenskiy gave the closing concert at the Kunsthaus. There has also been a season of Soviet films and the city theatre put on a production of *Three Sisters*.

The best example of programming was a concert by the Camera Bern under Heinz Holliger, in which a Denisov premiere of a new version of his *Bach Variations "Es ist genug"* (1984) was sandwiched

between Bach's cantata "Ich habe genug" and Shostakovich's Fourteenth Symphony. There were all kinds of stimulating contrasts here, even if the link was the morbid subject of death.

Another concert featured Sofia Gubaydulina's *Seven Words* (1982), a 40-minute work for cello, accordion and strings with quotations from Heinrich Schütz's *The Seven Words of Christ*. The music is quiet and intimate, consisting mainly of a dialogue between the two solo instruments. The cello is used for a variety of expressive effects, while the accordion began inhaling and exhaling sounds to far-off echoes of organ-playing. The seven sections are punctuated by gentle string interludes which take the musical idiom back to the world of Schütz. The work is inspired by the devotional element that plays such a large part in Gubaydulina's creative output and, as with all her music, the originality and simplicity of the sounds she conjures proved the most striking feature.

And yet the Lucerne performance - played with commitment and skill by the Moscow Virtuosi under Vladimir Spivakov - was hardly the most persuasive way to represent Gubaydulina. This is one instance where she has clearly over-worked her material: the fascination of the contrast between cello and accordion wore off all too quickly and monotony was the abiding impression.

The same ensemble accompanied Evgeny Kissin in a performance of Shostakovich's First Piano Concerto. Kissin is the 18-year-old Soviet prodigy who began making records when he was 11, and whose complete submission to Herbert von Karajan was the most revealing feature of their televised performance of the Chalkovsky concerto from Berlin last New Year's Eve. Kissin's Lucerne performance included

a predictable show of technical virtuosity but on this occasion it was married to a strong sense of the music's spiky brilliance and impulse. It is a young man's concerto, perfectly suited to Kissin's innocent bravura.

Ideally, Gubaydulina or Shnitke should have been present to introduce their music. But like Gubaydulina, Shnitke was represented only by one major work: Riccardo Chailly and the Concertgebouw have taken the Fifth Symphony round Europe (except London) since they gave the premiere last November. Neeme Jarvi's Gothenburg recording is now building an even wider audience and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic is to give the British premiere later this month. No wonder orchestras are keen to perform it: it is an inspired creative response to symphonic tradition, in which Shnitke pays homage successively to Bach, Mahler, Musorgsky and Shostakovich through his own unmistakable voice of nervous vitality. Chailly and his orchestra gave a performance of knock-out confidence and grandeur.

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ARTS

Menu for a masterpiece

From Venice, Nigel Andrews hails Greenaway's new film

FILM FESTIVALS need to be Pentecostal events. Tongues of fire would descend on the visiting critic, giving him a sudden dazzling skill with language. Necessity makes the inspiration for the only means of access to a Bulgarian or Bornean masterpiece is to understand French subtitles at Cannes, German ones at Berlin, Italian ones at Venice. Those days are gone or going. In 1989 nearly every film seems to be in English. The rise of the co-productions is one explanation. When a movie has no obvious native language, why not perform or dub it in the one most widely used? Another reason is the flagging creative fires of most non-English-speaking countries. When did a movie from Japan, India, France, West Germany or Brazil last score itself on our memories? Of the first six films seen at Venice four have been in English and two in mixed languages with English predominant. Who said we had lost our empire? Linguistically, we seem to be taking over the world. Certainly the best film at Venice so far is British: Peter Greenaway's The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover is a prime cut from the body cinematic. Red, dripping and succulent, it gives us a Jacobean melodrama updated as post-modernist movie. A roiling, foulmouthed gangster (Michael Gambon) dines nightly in a rococo restaurant. His wife (Helen Mirren) has taken to slipping off to the city's luxurious loo to make love with another diner, monk and bookish Alan Howard. How will Gambon react when - if - he finds out? What can the all-seeing French chef (Richard Bohringer) do? And will there be blood before bedtime?



Scene from Peter Greenaway's The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover

Greenaway must have swallowed a genius tonic. This movie bears the same relation to The Draughtsman's Contract or Drowning By Numbers as King Lear does to Lassie Come Home. Its controlled desirum of colour and camera movement is astonishing. Spectacular tracking shots unfurl to the melodic mantras of Michael Nyman's music (like Handel on mind-drugs). Dialogue has an unimpeded wit and passion. And each sphere of action is expressionistically coloured - red for restaurant, green for kitchen, white for bathroom - with Mirren's clothes changing like chameleon-like to match. At times the film over-resembles Fellini. Especially when Gothically lit dogs meander a studio-built street at night, or when dining-tables and diners groan with Trimalchian excess. But for most of its 126 minutes it comes on like the Greenaway film of our dreams: one we always hoped he might make but never dared suppose he actually would. Everything else at Venice has been the sorbet after the meat course. Alain Resnais's I Want To Go Home is a Jules Feiffer-scripted diversionism which doesn't quite divert: all about an American cartoonist (played by veteran lyricist Adolph Green) disoriented by his first trip to France (played by Gerard Depardieu). Fernando Trueb's The Mad Monkey is a thin, tall-chasing Anglo-French thriller featuring insect, movie-making and Jeff Goldblum. And Gabriel Axel's Christmas is a Danish road movie that should have been roadblocked at an early stage. Axel, who made Babette's Feast, trails after a runaway boy fleeing petty crime in Denmark for redemptive wanderlust in France, Spain and travel-brochure Morocco. In a festival mostly dieting us on trifles, the best trifle has been Henry Jaglom's New Year's Day. This charming psycho-comedy has Jaglom himself playing a writer who arrives in New York to find his sublet apartment overrun with kooks and weirdos. Can he solve their problems? Can they solve his? He falls in love with one girl (dazzling newcomer Maggie Jacobson), toils, pouting and talkative as a Bohmer heroine. But he is entertainingly at sea with the rest. A film fresh and full of fervour, from the writer-director of Always and Can She Bake A Cherry Pie? Irene Pappas plays the Greek life-force who befriends washed-out Czech-Australian visitor Eva Sitta, coping with drug dependence on a lode-nose island. The Babel-like cast - add an Indian girl, a Frenchman and a deaf-mute who speaks guttural gibberish - means work overtime at the subtitles. But soon we wonder why we are bothering. The film, by the Dutch-Australian director of Man Of Flowers and Vincent, is co-production cinema at its worst: a parading of national stereotypes under photogenic skies, a delirium of human clichés masquerading as a fresco of human life. Last year's Golden Lion winner The Legend Of The Holy Drinker - Dutch star, Italian director, English script, French setting - set a nightmare precedent for Venice. Perhaps one is being Canute-like in resisting the tide of multi-national movies: perhaps the tide will sweep over us anyway. But in a world where the marks of flavourless internationalism are all around us in other spheres - from airport lounges to hamburgers - why add cinema to the hit list? Nothing could be emblematically more apt than the fact that the only movie masterpiece presented at Venice so far, The Cook, The Thief, His Wife And Her Lover, is set in a restaurant: a film defiantly pleading the virtues of flavour, locality and a concentrated richness of conception.

Caribbean rhythms

Martin Hoyle reviews "Back Street Mammy"

IN ITS pursuit of a black theatrical identity the Tamba Theatre Company has a valuable track record - a worst, the defensive-aggressive boom-beating of the professional minority, the ghetto-dweller by choice. It is exhilarating, therefore, to welcome this warm-hearted, perceptive play, directed with immense speed and stylisation by Paulette Randall, acted with polish and assurance, that needs no special pleading. It simply holds the attention through concern for its characters - who happen to be black - and their problems, as a good play should. It deals with the sexual curiosity and development of Dyanette, her unpreparedness for the realities of sex, and her dilemma when faced, bewildered, with pregnancy. Her background includes a Roman Catholic upbringing (the stuff of three-act dramas in itself) and first-generation British parents who mull over the emotional tangles of their youth in broad West Indian accents - the four young actors switch to a different lilt as their elders - which they are still touchingly reliving and sorting out. Zary Conway's design includes a low podium approached by three ramps, backed by a Perplex-glazed arch with hints of the lights and lanterns of an ecclesiastical window; an aptly formal set for the choric comments of the "watchers" on whether Dyanette's conscience of the manifestation of social pressures - and the children's rhyming games that punctuate the action. The author is Trish Cooke, an actress herself and winner of the Thames TV Young Playwrights Award. Her writing is accurate and articulate, nicely differentiating between college-educated Dyanette and her raucous mate Jackie, young ladykiller Eddie and the old folks with their Caribbean rhythms. Her sense of construction is confidently flexible and well served by the swiftly-



Tamba Theatre Company's production of Trish Cooke's play

moving production with its mixture of formalised groupings and naturalistic dialogue. The one fault in this hugely promising play (less than 90 minutes, no interval) is the occasional confusion between characters that results from actors doubling and tripling roles. Even the excellent Cecilia Noble (lovely as Dyanette's outspoken mother) finds it bard to distinguish mate Jackie from sister Jan in consecutive scenes. Pamela Nomvete makes a wonderfully rounded person of Dyanette, from guilty adolescence to self-possessed maturity; an actress with great potential and intelligence. The fine cast is completed by Stephen Persaud and Michael Stewart.

Martin Hoyle

BORN IN Moscow to German parents in 1869, Hans Pfitzner died - embittered and penurious - in a Munich old people's home 80 years later. In between, he was for a long time the most admired conservative German composer after Strauss, and an angry pamphleteer against "new" music. That his name is now unknown to most music-lovers outside Germany and Austria has less to do with an unforgiving Modernist establishment, I think, than with the embarrassing fact that he had starved unlike most decent composers - rather handsomely under the Nazis. And also, no doubt, because he was one of those unlucky long-lived musicians whose early maturity led into a protracted musical decline. The one Pfitzner work that is honoured still among non-German listeners is his 1917 opera Palestrina (recently re-released on DG compact discs). Soon after it, however, came a piece of no less elevated ambitions: his gigantic cantata on Eichenlaub's texts, Von deutscher Seele ("Of the German soul", God help us), which has never recovered from embryonic promotion during the Nazi years. Yet there is nothing ideological about it - it is raptly, Teutonically self-absorbed, in the grand Romantic tradition. Its appearance on two Musica Mundi CDs (314 027-

Records Rediscovering Pfitzner

ICM rewards sympathetic attention. Von deutscher Seele shares the troubled musico-spiritual climate of many Strauss and Hugo Wolf songs, and in breadth and orchestral apparatus it vies with Zemlinaky's Lyric Symphony. It is less recently devised than that (newly popular) piece, it also boasts considerably more dramatic variety. With four soloists and large chorus, it moves with professional fluency between intimate Lied, quasi-folk song and massive choral stuff, and the opulent orchestration includes the "belonging to the substance of the work. It is an expansive, turbulent canvas, not a rigorous construct - Pfitzner was naively hostile to conscious musical calculation. The epic scale is heartfelt and persuasive, in its strange, dated national way thought-provoking for us foreigners, certainly, but genuine aesthetic pleasure too. The new recording, of a live Düsseldorf performance under Heinrich Hollreiser, includes an eager, equally soprano but also three much better soloists - the tenor Frottschka, a fine alto in Ingeborg Most and the commanding bass of Victor von Haem. It represents a piece of musical history which is not ignoble. I have to say that the CD format, like many another from Austria, is mungy: only fragmentary translations of the texts, and no banding within either of the two parts - each more than three-quarters of an hour long. Pfitzner's somewhat later Piano Concerto, neo-Brahmsian but toughly original, high-boned and sardonic, makes a healthy complement to it in Wolf Harden's performance with Herbert Beissel and the Bratislava CSR Symphony (Marco Polo 8223162). The Hungarian composer Ernst von Dohnányi, who lived even longer (1877-1960), also suffered from political contumely. After an illustrious national career - close colleague of Bartók and Kodály, music director of Hungarian Radio, principal of the Budapest Conservatoire - he retreated to America in 1948, whereupon he ceased to be performed at home until quite recently (and posthumously). It was a silly, pointless insult: despite his keen interest

Diamond bright dance

Clement Crisp on the NYCB in Glasgow

THE NEW York City Ballet is making a European tour, and its only British port of call is Glasgow - a tremendous one-up for next year's Cultural Capital of the Continent. The Theatre Royal's stage is not large, and the young talents of Margaret Tracey and Peter Boal illuminated the piece. Miss Tracey was bewitching, spring-like, and as ebullient as the best square-dancers. Steps were brilliant-cut, each facet glittering, each accent and phrase part of the music, and enchanting speed never became a gable as the roudles of steps were poured out. Mr Boal has, from his graduation performance, been marked for fine things. In Square Dance's meditative male variation - one of Balanchine's most tremendous gifts to a dancer - he showed an elegance of bearing that was matched by distinction of means and temperament. It was truly noble dancing. Nobility, of course, from Andersen, the Apollo of the evening, his reading vivid in gesture, full of dramatic savour, as were the performances of his Muses. The canard that NYCB interpretations are often emotionally blank has never seemed more unrealistic than when watching Andersen exploring the young Apollo's world. Every movement was replete with feeling, and reached out with sublime breadth of meaning. In the afternoon, Darcl Kistler took the stage as Terpsichore, her golden presence the power of her dancing quite eclipsing Lindsay Fischer's bland Apollo. Her fellow Muses, Maria Calegari and Wendy Whelan, and Melinda Roy and Judith Fugate in the same roles in the evening, shaped their solos so that Balanchine spoke to us. The Concert was looking very stylish, its jokes fresh and sharp, not least when the adorable Lauren Hauser was being ecstatic and much put-upon. And in the Chalkovsky pas de deux, I record a delightful account of the ballerina role from Kelly Cass, partnered by Damian Woetzel at the matinee, huddling through the dance, and from Merrill Ashley striking sparks as she showed off the choreography with diamond wit in the evening. It was a performance combining prodigious technique with an insouciant charm - the wildly difficult made joyous.

Martin Hoyle

THE HANOVER BAND CHAMPAGNE SUPPER CONCERTS BANQUETING HOUSE WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1. Thursday 5 October 7.30 pm. ROSSINI \* WEBER \* SCHUBERT Directed by ROY GOODMAN.

Fireworks at the Proms

David Murray reviews Hoddinott's Star Children

SENIOR composer of "accessible" music must expect his anniversaries in the crowded with commissions, and so Alan Hoddinott has been working hard in his sixtieth year. On Thursday we heard one of those birthday products, Star Children, commissioned for the third and last Prom appearance of the RBC Welsh Symphony this season. It proved to be an entirely suitable fireworks display, the Prommers were audibly delighted, and it was probably fun for the orchestra too. The conductor Richard Armstrong extracted full value from it. Hoddinott's inspiration came from a television film about the island people of Celebes, who believe their ancestors to have descended to earth from sky-ships. He has imagined a Celeban funeral rite: an invocation with mysterious chant, then a sequence of manic dances, and finally an intense, almost ecstatic, while the dear departed ascends homeward to the Pleiades. The score cries out for an exotic ballet to accompany. Indeed, in contour and general effect it is the very model of a one-act Diaghilev extravaganza. Somewhere in the background - never literally echoed, but always within shouting distance - are Ravel's Daphnis, Rouseff's Bacchus, Paul Dukas' La Péri. For atmosphere there are the colourful sustained pedals, high and low (with drum-throbs); the basic musical material - linear and angular - is equally apt for slow, liturgical declamation and for rousing repetition in the dances. But Hoddinott's chief material is the unashamed orchestral sound, tingling and clanking with extra percussion: the closing apotheosis (which would do nicely for the scent of the Mother Ship in Close Encounters) owes less to any developed musical argument than to the dense metallic clamour that booms it up. None of the composers in Diaghilev's stable would have dared to jettison the dramatic power of harmony so ruthlessly; on the other hand, Hoddinott can rotate and vary his tonally neutral formulas with cool, up-to-date elegance - no specific expressive sense, but expert theatrical contrast. What one misses, in a score which depends upon a central explosion of rhythms, was any trace of rhythmic adventure. Since the Great War, our musical century has been rich in that. It was disappointing to hear Hoddinott's Star Children treading their paces - however furiously - in the old, innocent patterns: a tarantella or a jig would hardly have seemed out of place. Star Children made its colourful halletic splash between two grander pieces in Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto the pianist Hugh Timney was bright, articulate and sensitive, though neither the Adagio (somebody forgot Beethoven's further advice, "un poco moto") nor the finale had enough forward impetus. The woodwinds were unreliably tuned, both there and in Elgar's "Enigma" Variations - blotty, too, in the fifth and tenth variations. With warmly responsive string-playing, Armstrong was able nonetheless to summon up fresh eloquence for Elgar (and not only in "Nimrod"). I found myself anticipating each variation with unwonted excitement, most often rewarded.

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